

the chronicle

Royal friends

Widower tells of his wife's childhood with princesses

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Rail milestone

Severn Valley celebrates the golden age of steam

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Baggies' best

West Brom hand out a mauling at Molineux

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Getting set for £2.5m revamp at the Priory

PREPARATION work for a long-awaited £2.5million revamp of Dudley's Priory Park will get under way next month.

The existing pavilion is being transformed into a modern visitor centre with education and community facilities.

The project is being funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and will also include, a mini football pitch, a new entrance and lighting of the Priory ruins.

Designs are being drawn up for the new artwork - medieval-style floor tiles, sculptural entrances and a 6ft statue of Dudley tennis hero Dorothy Round.

But before construction work can start, tree surgeons will be removing 24 trees from the park beginning on March 5.

Twenty of them have been identified as being dead, dying or dangerous while the other four are cherry trees which need to be moved another site.

The council, which will be planting 250 trees as part of the scheme, and the Friends of Priory Park and Green carried out consultation on planned tree works last year.

New trees will be planted over the next two years to replace any trees that are removed.

Vow as 200 jobs are lost

The loss of more than 200 jobs in Wyre Forest was branded a "big blow" for the district. But council bosses have pledged to do "all they can" to help businesses which are struggling.

Luxury boat builders Sealine International in Kidderminster announced at the weekend that it is to shed 72 jobs. The news came just days after Kidderminster carpet business Brintons revealed plans to cut 150 jobs, mainly at its Stourport Road factory.

● Ghost town – page 3

BATTLE LINES IN FIRE SITE FIGHT

by Andrew Turton

PLANS for a new fire station serving Halesowen and Cradley Heath will go on public show even as the legal fight to stop closure of the old one will go on. The campaign to save Halesowen Fire Station was kick-started when a £10,000 fighting fund target was reached.

'Go-it-alone' plan to help Waterfront

DUDLEY Council hopes to launch a "go-it-alone" mini enterprise zone in a bid to rescue The Waterfront at Brierley Hill.

The landmark business centre is facing a new exodus of more than 550 office staff.

Although it missed out on winning a bid to become part of one of the Government-awarded enterprise zones, the council now aims to put together its own package, including business rate discounts to tempt companies to locate there. The enterprise zone could be ready by April 1.

"We need to take dramatic action to help the Waterfront," said Dudley Council leader Les Jones. "We would like to create a go-it-alone mini-enterprise zone and are looking seriously at whether we could offer a rates reduction scheme to encourage new businesses to locate at The Waterfront."

Adverts for vacant space are dotted around the buildings at The Waterfront, including one offering "first year's rental £1" – but the number of empty units keeps increasing.

Lloyds Banking Group last week announced all 217 staff at Quay House at The Waterfront would be moving to Wolverhampton. Mr Jones said talks continued with Waterfront owner Westfield about ways of tempting more businesses to settle there. Paula Wood, Westfield's manager of The Waterfront, refused to comment on the council's proposals.

Plans to shut and axe one of two 24-hour crews serving the area were approved by West Midlands Fire Service Authority despite a wave of protest from residents.

The Halesowen station in Hagley Road, is set to close on March 31 – but this would be delayed if a legal bid by campaigners gets to court.

Fire officials eventually want to create a brand new station serving the two towns and are now giving the community the opportunity to look at the plans for a number of potential sites.

Drop-in sessions have been organised offering people the chance to see illustrations of what the new station could look like. Residents will be able to look at the plans on March 8 between 5pm to 8pm at Lutley Community Centre, Brookwillow Road, Halesowen.

Transparent

A second session will be held on March 10 from 11am to 2pm at Reddall Hill Primary School, Trinity Road, Cradley Heath.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Phil Loach, said: "We want to engage as many people as possible from both Cradley Heath and Halesowen in these sessions to continue our transparent approach through the sharing of information as it becomes available."

Fire authority chairman, Councillor John Edwards, said: "We are keen to move as quickly as possible to provide a brand new community fire station to cover people in the Halesowen and Cradley Heath areas."

The legal fight to overturn the closure plans is underway. The case is expected to cost up to £40,000 in total if it makes the High Court.

Campaign spokesman, Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, said: "The outlook is much more positive than it was a couple of weeks ago."

"We have moved on to the next stage now." A final decision about the new fire station will be taken on April 16.

Firefighting fact finding fun



Councillor Sue Greenaway, left, Promise Mncube, aged 15, and Councillor Michael Evans with other youngsters from Holly Hall

TEENAGERS have been given a taste of life as a firefighter during a week-long training course at Dudley Fire Station. Pupils from Holly Hall School, Dudley, learned a variety of safety skills during the fire education sessions. The course, run by West Midlands Fire Service, taught them the history of the brigade and included practical activities with hoses and ladders. A pass-out parade was held at the Burton Road station and pupils demonstrated their skills in front of their families and Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans. Pupils were presented with certificates to mark the completion of the Fire Intervention Reparation and Education Programme.

Staff are terrorised by armed robbers

ROBBERS armed with a hammer and bat terrorised staff at a Halesowen convenience store, locking them in a broom cupboard before stealing cash and cigarettes.

A colleague has told how four staff at the Co-operative Food shop, Halesowen Road, Halesowen, were forced to open tills and the safe.

The three hooded raiders then ordered them into the broom cupboard, locked them in and put the key under the door, telling them they could come out in 10 seconds.

Police arrived as the staff let themselves out – but the intruders had already fled through a rear fire escape, taking a large amount of cash and a bag full of cigarettes. The value is not yet known but is expected to run into hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds.

The raid happened on Monday at 9.25pm, when the three men walked into the store, brandishing a hammer and a red-handled bat.

Assistant manager Oliver Holden told how they first ordered a colleague to lock the front door, checking no customers were inside.

The duty manager was then ordered from the shop floor into the cash office and forced to open the safe.

Anyone with information can contact 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cars trap man's leg

A MAN suffered bruises to his leg and a car was shunted into the front porch of a house in an accident in Halesowen.

Fire crews were called to Abberley Close at 7.30pm on Monday to find a Vauxhall Astra pushed into the porch of a house and a man trapped between two cars.

It is believed the man's car had started to roll forward in his attempts to stop the car, the man became trapped between two vehicles.

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Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Library move looks set for approval

PLANS to move a library which has been housed in a Black Country arts centre for more than a century to a new venue look set to be approved – despite fears from councillors.

Dudley Council wants to move Netherton Library in Northfield Road to another site as it tries to make the service more efficient and save cash.

A consultation with residents, businesses and councillors was held

at the end of last year. Now council bosses say they are pressing ahead with the plans. A final decision will be made by the cabinet in March.

The council wants to move the library to The Savoy Centre, Netherton. Councillor Adrian Turner has previously said the move from Netherton Arts Centre had been mooted to not only save money but to improve access to the library, which is difficult for disabled people

and mothers with pushchairs to enter. But the plans have sparked fears it could spell the beginning of the end for the centre. It suffered a blow last year after the council slashed the budget of Dudley Performing Arts, which operates the building, by £469,000 – about half.

Councillor Qadar Zada said: "I've had lots of people approach me raising their concerns about this historic building. The library at the

current site is very popular.

"I'd much rather money was spent on resolving any issues with the current building than using this as an opportunity to move closer to abandoning the site. My worst fears are the building will be sold off as a pub," Councillor Turner said. "The decision to relocate the library will be considered as part of the final budget-setting process at the next full council meeting."

Chiefs give go-ahead for steep rent rise

COUNCIL chiefs in Dudley claim their hands were tied over giving the go-ahead to a 7.7 per cent rise in rents which they consider too steep.

It is the biggest increase in almost a decade for residents living in the borough's 24,000 council homes and is the equivalent of £5.54 per week extra for tenants.

The council's cabinet last week approved the plans and said the new charges were calculated using the Government's formula.

But opposition Labour councillor Gave Partridge called the hike "obscene" and said: "Taking this amount of extra cash from some families' income could leave them in real trouble."

Councillor Adrian Turner said: "I don't believe the increase is fair and I realise a lot of people will be hit by these prices but our hands were tied."

He said the increase would fund work on bringing the more than 400 empty council properties back into use to reduce the waiting list of 6,000 people.

Council leader Les Jones said making the increase two per cent lower would have cost the authority more than £4 million. He added: "It is a great shame we are looking at this."

Borough people snub campaign for city bid

Business leaders backing Dudley's bid for city status say they are disappointed less than one per cent of the borough signed up to support their campaign. In total 1,324 people signed an online petition out of a population of more than 300,000 in the borough.

Bill to make gravestones safe stands at £250,000

AROUND £250,000 has been spent repairing unsafe gravestones and memorials which have undergone "topple tests" in Dudley. Inspections are being carried out throughout the borough and so far 13,500 memorials have been checked.

Out of those, 2,680 have needed attention because they were at risk of collapse.

The headstones are tested by hand, following strict guidelines, and relatives are kept informed of any work needed. Headstones that wobble have had to be shored up to prevent them falling over.

Council workers have been carrying out a rolling programme of checks and repairs in the borough since 2007 with £250,000 being spent over five years.

This work has already been carried out at Stourbridge, Gornal Wood and Dudley but checks are now being carried out at Cradley Cemetery before moving on to Lye and Wollescote in the next few months.

Councillor David Stanley, said: "This work continues to be carried out very sensitively and our staff are always available to speak to families directly."

Dudley is vying with 25 other towns and boroughs across the country to be honoured as part of a competition to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It is up against areas including Bournemouth, Luton and Reading in the contest for city status.

Government ministers and Buckingham Palace are expected to announce the winner in a few months time.

Dudley Chamber of Commerce President Paul Bennett said the bid could put the borough on the map and help attract millions of pounds of investment.

"I think the number of people that signed the petition we ran as a chamber is disappointing," he said.

Potential

"City status in itself would probably not create a single job. It is what you then do with that city status, the potential that is going to create investment, that is going to create jobs that will create a feel-good-factor around the area and encourage people to spend."

"Even if we don't achieve city status what we need to do is think about when we have a particular project what the longer term benefits are rather than just looking at these projects in the shorter term."

Mr Bennett, who is senior partner at George Green Solicitors in Cradley Heath, said the council had done what it could to promote the bid. A Yougov poll showed two per cent of those asked think Dudley's bid deserves to be a success.

Rapper Bb having last laugh



Benjamin Blake has proved the music critics wrong

DUDLEY rapper Bb has proved his critics wrong by reaching the regional finals of a national competition.

Two years ago, Bb – real name Benjamin Blake – was advised by the music press to give up after failing to pass the auditions in another competition. But last year he was runner-up in Talent UK and is now in the

quarter-final of Live & Unsigned. "I'm very excited about it," said Bb, aged 20, of Smith Street, Kates Hill, a graphic design student at Stourbridge College. The regional finals will be at the NEC on March 24. Tickets must be purchased from Bb himself. He can be contacted via Facebook; Twitter: @ThatBrumKid or by calling 07506 100790.

Record high on poppies

THE Quarry Bank branch of the Royal British Legion is celebrating raising a record £29,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

Volunteers generated a total of £29,030 during the run-up to Remembrance Sunday, beating the previous year's figure of £26,090.

Volunteers took to the streets and Merry Hill shopping centre to help collect the cash which will help Britain's armed forces heroes and ex-servicemen. They also staged a poppy concert and other events.

Boat jobs to go

LUXURY boat builders Sealine International in Kidderminster is to shed 72 jobs. The redundancies follow a review of the firm's operation after it was bought by American private investors led by the Oxford Investment Group in September. The company employs 385.

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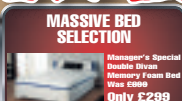


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Projects can bid for cash

GROUPS across Dudley borough are being encouraged to apply for part of a £250,000 cash pot using to support community projects.

Organisations can for the money from Dudley Council's five area committees to support work they are doing to benefit residents.

The committees for Central Dudley, North Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen are all looking to allocate funds to worthy community causes.

Each one has an annual allocation of £50,000 to share out among groups in need of financial support.

The authority's finance chief, Councillor David Blood, said: "The area committee funding can provide valuable money to community groups and organisations."

"Many of the committees have money for this financial year still available and will receive the £50,000 allocation for next year to support good causes in the local community."

The applications must be made for capital projects not running costs.

To apply, groups should contact 01384 815236 or download the application form from website www.dudley.gov.uk.

Incentive to visit venue

A COUPLE have a chance to win £300 towards their wedding cost by visiting Dudley's Priory Hall register office.

Dudley Council is offering one couple the chance to have their wedding fee waived at the venue through a free prize draw at the open day event from 10am on March 10. The draw will be made by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans, at 3pm at Priory Hall. The winning couple will still be required to pay the statutory notice fee of £33.50 each at their local register office.

Joggers wanted

A CHARITY is recruiting people in Wyre Forest to take part in a sponsored jog to raise funds.

The British Heart Foundation will host its traditional Wyre Forest Jog on March 11. It will start from the Wyre Forest Visitors' Centre, Callow Hill, Bewdley, from 11am and is suitable for all age groups. Call 0800 169 3672.

Group wants canals to take loads off roads

A NEW group which aims to raise the profile of the Midlands canal network is pushing for more businesses to transport freight on the region's waterways instead of the region's overloaded roads.

The idea is among options being considered, according to a prominent businessman leading West Midlands Waterways Partnership.

The new group is being chaired by Peter Mathews, of the Black Country Consortium and managing director of Black Country Metals based in Lye.

One aim is to get more people involved

in looking after canals and rivers. The group will also work out how the region's waterways should operate from 2012.

Mr Mathews says the move would raise the profile of the waterways, pumping in more cash for renovation and maintenance schemes.

Alternative

A key aim is to raise the profile of the canals network, which involves businesses considering the waterways as an alternative for transporting goods.

"We really need to show not just the history on our doorstep but the fact we

have a valuable asset that can be used for pleasure and, potentially, for the good of the economy," said Mr Mathews.

"I think you could see more businesses using the waterways and over the next five years there will be more commercial use of the canals."

Narrowboat enthusiast Graham Fisher, MBE, a former chairman of Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society, has been invited to join the group.

He says people need to be prepared to look at ways that the canal and river

network can make money in order for them to survive. "We have to look at innovation to allow ways of developing the waterways for the 21st century," he said.

Looking at new technologies like creating mobile phone applications to provide interactive maps for the network is one of the plans being considered.

The new group is planning to work closely with the Canal and Rivers Trust charity, which is replacing British Waterways and has to raise its own funding to operate.

Ghost town fears as trade deserting The Waterfront

By day it was once a flagship for bustling Black Country commerce and by night a Mecca for party animals across the region, with its buzzing waterside bars.

Now The Waterfront – the smart-looking business centre that has grown over the last 20 years next to the massive Merry Hill shopping complex – has an air of desertion.

It is estimated half of the space available for rent is empty and it no longer boasts a thriving waterside frontage.

Among businesses to desert the development over recent years was credit card company Egg and, the latest, Lloyds Banking Group announced it is moving all 217 staff from Quay House at The Waterfront to Wolverhampton.

Virgin Media is also transferring 342 of its employees to Birmingham.

Bar Sport closed, with the loss of between 10 and 15 jobs, about three weeks ago, leaving Wetherspoon's Waterfront Inn as the only bar on the frontage.

However, Scott Murray, founder and director of Bar Sport, said the business at the Waterfront – which only opened last August – had been popular and the decision was made by the couple with the franchise. Mr Murray said a new franchisee should soon be in place to reopen the bar and added: "We have a lot of optimism for The Waterfront."

Payments

Dudley Council leader Les Jones said the authority is looking into launching a mini-enterprise zone, offering discounted business rates, to give a fillip to the centre and boost local jobs.

But, in the meantime, "To Let" signs abound "It's a bit like a ghost town and trade has been dead since we arrived in September," said Tammy Richardson, aged 46, who runs Harry's at 43 sandwich bar and cafe, with her sister, Kate Nicholls.

"We had thought there was going to be an enterprise zone here, which would bring more businesses in, but that hasn't happened," said Mrs Richardson.

"Our rent is high – £3,100 a quarter paid in advance for a small unit – and Westfield, our landlord, wasn't very sympathetic when we recently asked if we could pay by steps."

"We'd just paid our last quarter in December but when we asked for help for the next quarter we were told we could pay £1,000 on



A handful of cars outside frontages at The Waterfront, where it's thought half of available premises are empty

January 7, another £1,000 on January 19 and the rest on January 31, which would be three payments in one month. On Monday (last week) we took less than ever – just £220 in one day. And now we hear Lloyds Bank is moving away, on top of the transfer of staff at Virgin Media away from The Waterfront. The more offices that move out the more we struggle. Westfield needs to do something to bring in more businesses and to bring down these extortionate rents."

Paula Wood, manager of The Waterfront for Westfield, said: "We are sympathetic and helping all we can but I cannot say any more because it's confidential between us and the client." She said it was not possible to estimate how much of the centre was empty as some of the properties were let by other landlords.

"We have our property agents, who we work with very closely, but do not have

responsibility for a lot of the property there," she added.

Westfield also did not wish to comment upon what it was doing to try to turn around the centre's fortunes or on Dudley Council's rescue plans for The Waterfront.

Sellers chartered surveyors of Dudley, which is currently agent for two units and is about to put a third on the market, is offering the floor above the former PJ's bar for just £1 for the first year's rent.

Interest

Matthew Pearcey, a partner in Sellers, said: "It's good news that the council is planning an incentive for The Waterfront."

He added the £1 rent deal would be part of a package in which a tenant signed up for a lease over a certain number of years and that it had created "some interest".

The Waterfront still boasts some high

profile tenants, including the Government's Child Support Agency and the Inland Revenue. But one Inland Revenue employee, who did not wish to be named, said: "We're in a three-floor building and the bottom floor has become totally empty over the last couple of years. Also, we've been told some of our temporary staff will soon be moved out into our call centre – and the Egg building is still empty."

Paul Leith, aged 52, a sales representative for Unique Copiers Ltd, of Telford, said: "Five years ago this place was pretty busy. But now a lot of the units are empty, which is probably a sign of the times."

However, not everyone at the centre is unhappy. Manager of the Waterfront Inn, Kay Corbett, saying: "We're doing fine."

The Brewers Wharf pub, next to the Waterfront development, in Level Street, is still trading.

NEWS

in brief

Murder mystery night at college

STUDENTS at Halesowen College will be showing off their wide-ranging skills at an annual murder mystery event.

Performing arts and catering students will stage the event at the Whittingham Road campus on March 28 and 29. Guests will have the chance to play sleuth while characters play out the mystery. Tickets, including the three course meal, are £14.95. The event will start at 6.45pm and dinner served at 7pm. Call 0121 602 7851.

Youngsters to be in line for awards

YOUNG people from across Worcestershire can be still be nominated for a top award to celebrate their achievements.

The Tryangle Awards are aimed at those aged 11 to 19 from across the county who have overcome the odds to succeed.

Teachers, youth workers and family friends can all nominate youngsters who have shown achievements in a wide range of categories including art, music and sports.

Closing date for nominations is February 17.

Operatic society has gotta dance

Quarry Bank Operatic Society will host a concert called Gotta Dance, Gotta Sing at the Cornbow Hall, in Hagley Street, Halesowen, from February 29 to March 3.

The show will feature songs from The Lion King, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Sunset Boulevard, Ghost and Miss Saigon.

Tickets for the show are priced £11 and available by calling 01384 820902.

Theatre group to perform concert

A CHARITY concert will be performed at Dudley College to raise funds for two charities. It will be staged by Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company performing songs from the shows on March 9 starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced £5 from the Georgina Unit Charity Shop, in the Arcade, Upper Gornal.

Gardens talk

JEAN Draycott will give a talk about the restoration of Castle Bromwich Hall's gardens to members of Hagley Wives and Women's Fellowship on March 13 at 8pm.

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A 40mph roadworks speed trap on the M5 is nipping drivers at the rate of 17 a day. Very clever. It would be even cleverer if the authorities could tell us how to keep below 40mph on a motorway when all three lanes are full and there's 40tons of juggernaut six feet from your rear bumper with all lights flashing.

□□□□□□□□

A BBC business reporter told us about a company which is big in "aluminium". This is a word used chiefly by Americans who cannot cope with the extra syllable in aluminium.

□□□□□□□□

WHICH leads naturally on to that favourite British pastime, teasing the Yanks. A reader suggests if you have an idle moment, try telling an American that the Shipping Forecast is that day's cricket results:

"North. Utsire. Southerly 5 to 7. Moderate or rough. Showers. Good. South Utsire: Southeasterly 4 or 5, occasionally 6. Moderate or rough. Showers. Good"

Yep, what a great match that was.

□□□□□□□□

THE biggest question about Abu Qatada is not why a judge has ordered his release from Long Lartin high-security prison, nor why BBC staff have been ordered not to call him an extremist.

It is why this man, apparently with a long and well-documented history of inciting hatred and supporting terrorism, has never been brought before a jury.

I cannot believe that, given 1,000 years of English law and all the modern laws designed specifically to deal with terrorism, that no charge can be raised against what one judge called this "truly dangerous individual."

□□□□□□□□

ANYWAY, if I were Abu Qatada, I think I'd be happier behind bars than at liberty. There is one thing you can get on the streets of London that you are most unlikely to get in Long Lartin. Shot.

□□□□□□□□

GOOD to see so many of you have an eagle eye on the television subtitles. A lady reports seeing on the news that Ralph Fiennes is "currently working on a new virgin of great expectations".

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Evacuee Irene became friend of future queen

SHE WAS friends with a young princess and was one of only a select few allowed to call her Lilibet.

While many evacuees escaped the south east and the London blitz, Irene Middleton was moved to Windsor – and spent her childhood during wartime playing with the future Queen of England.

Now, her widow Francis Thomas Middleton, aged 81, recalls her tales of growing up with Queen Elizabeth as the country prepares to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee year.

"She was always proud of her time growing up with the princesses and she'd always liked sharing her memories of that time," says Mr Middleton, of Gornal Wood.

The Queen was among those who paid her respects to the Middleton family when Irene died almost three years ago.

Remembered

They had written to Buckingham Palace to tell Her Majesty how fondly Irene remembered her time in Windsor.

Her lady-in-waiting wrote back passing on the Queen's condolences and echoing Irene's sentiments about the time.

Mrs Middleton was born Irene Charlotte Edmead to parents Lillian and John in Stepney in London's East End in 1931.

Her family was soon to be split up as the Government began to evacuate children from London in anticipation of the Nazi bombardment in 1939.

Mr Middleton said his bride-to-be had been heartbroken to leave her



Tom Middleton, holding a photo of him and his late wife Irene from March, 1950

parents and other siblings behind as part of the mass evacuation aged just eight. She and her sisters were moved into the regal surroundings of Windsor Great Park.

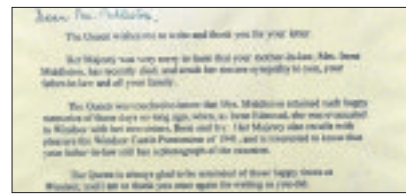
Irene and her three sisters Ivy, Rose and Vera were sent to stay with different families within the park in a row of cottages. Mr Middleton said: "The sisters would see each other a lot but they all lived with dif-

ferent families in this row of cottages."

It was during their stay that they grew to know the royal sisters, Princesses Margaret and Elizabeth. They had been living at the Royal Lodge within the grounds of Windsor before moving into the castle for the remainder of the war. The young princesses were encouraged to mix with the other children including the



Irene Middleton in the late 1990s



A letter sent from Buckingham Palace after Irene's death

four Edmead sisters. "Irene always said Margaret had been a type of tomboy but Elizabeth seemed more sophisticated even then," Mr Middleton explained.

"But they did not look down on anybody, they were just nice people." Tom and Irene married in March 1951 at St James's Church, Lower Gornal. Mrs Middleton died in March 2009 aged 77.

Warning on rogue salesmen

PEOPLE in Dudley are being warned to be on their guard after rogue mobility equipment sellers were spotted in the borough.

Reports have been received by Safe & Sound, Dudley's community safety partnership, about the fiddlers.

They are now warning vulnerable and elderly people in the community that they may be targeted.

The sellers call round to arrange an appointment before a salesman visits.

The caller will often claim to be working with social services and say a mobility assessment is due when they are actually companies who will send sales people round.

They pressure people into buying equipment they could get for far less elsewhere, the council says.

Councillor Tim Wright, said: "These scams are increasingly common and it's important residents are aware of the dangers."

"Everyone in the borough can make use of the bogus caller hotline." Call the hotline 01384 812045.

Diamond show

A CONCERT celebrating the music and stories of wartime will be staged at a venue in the Black Country.

The We'll Meet Again Diamond Jubilee show will be held at Dudley Concert Hall on May 31 starting at 2pm.

Tickets £11 and are available by calling the box office on 01384 812812.

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Hundreds in theatre campaign

HUNDREDS of people have joined the campaign to save The Hippodrome - which stands on a gateway into Dudley - from demolition.

More than 300 signatures have been collected in a bid to preserve the old Dudley council-owned theatre in Castle Hill and help restore the complex.

The building stands empty and the authority has said it may be torn down to make way for a museum or community centre.

But campaigners want the site to be reopened as a theatre and say it could help to lure thousands of visitors to the town.

A petition has been started by enthusiasts Geoff Fitzpatrick and Malcolm Palmer in the hope of saving the venue.

Former college lecturer Mr Fitzpatrick, aged 70, who lived near the theatre in Bourne Street when he was growing up, said: "The Hippodrome was around when Dudley was the hub of the Black Country."

"We think that different community groups could use it - how great would it be for theatre groups to be able to hold performances there?"

The Hippodrome first opened on December 19, 1938.

Public meeting

COUNCIL tenants in high rise properties can attend a public meeting to discuss issues on February 21 at Saltwells Education Centre, Netherton from 7pm

Dudley vying to be pilot for the Portas treatment

DUDLEY is one of two towns in the Black Country vying to be chosen as a pilot project for retail guru Mary Portas's bid to save Britain's struggling high streets. The town was labelled as the worst in the country for empty shops.

Now Dudley, will be competing with close neighbour Walsall to become one of 12 towns to trial recommendations and earn a slice of £1 million to boost trade. Other towns in the Black Country and Staffordshire are considering applying. The winners will set up "town teams" made up of councillors, traders and MPs to make Ms Portas's ideas a reality.

The councils have until March 23 to apply and draw up an argument on why they deserve the cash. Wolverhampton is giving it "very serious consideration" said Eliot Ward, interim regeneration manager at the city council. A decision has not been made over Stafford and Cannock. And it looks unlikely that any towns in Sandwell will apply.

Some 29 per cent of shops in Dudley are empty, giving it the highest vacancy rate of any medium sized town in the country.

Dudley Council Leader Les Jones said: "This is something we believe will benefit the town and there was no sense in just ignoring it. This could turn out to be very important project for the country as a whole and we want to be part of it."

He said Dudley would be put forward, rather than Halesowen or Stourbridge, due to its problem with empty shops.

Neglect

Ms Portas's report for the Government on the decline of town centres says years of neglect and the growth of online shopping has left many areas "dying".

One of Dudley's MPs has urged the retail guru to choose the town. Dudley North MP Ian Austin welcomed the report and said he would try to convince her to pick Dudley as one of the towns.

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All dolled up for musical



Ben Edwards, Katie Tomkins, and Jess Harris rehearsing for the Comic Theatre's Guys and Dolls

A theatre group is all dolled up for its latest production the romantic, musical comedy Guys & Dolls.

The Comic theatre company presents the Broadway and West End hit between February 16 to 18. The shows will be performed at Sunfield Community Theatre, Clent, near

Stourbridge. Their previous performances include Oklahoma, South Pacific and Fiddler on the Roof.

Evening shows start at 7.30pm with at £12. For the first time this year, Comic will also be doing a Saturday matinee starting at 2.30pm.

NEWS

in brief

Show them the money, says MP

FIRMS need better access to finance to help them compete during the tough economic conditions, says a Black Country MP.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin says company bosses are pleading with banks and other financial services to release cash.

During a Commons debate he demanded that Government ministers take action to improve manufacturers' access to money. The Labour MP has visited several Dudley firms recently and says senior directors need money to expand and stay profitable.

Pet dog owner in icy canal rescue

A DOG walker jumped into a canal in Halesowen to rescue his cocker spaniel from the icy water.

Ambulance crews were called to Chancel Way to treat the man who had ingested some canal water and cut his foot. He and his dog were out of the water when crews arrived around 3.30pm on Saturday. Just before 4pm on the same day youngsters were moved on from a frozen lake by police in Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield.

Firm expands

A HALESOWEN engineering firm is to take on five extra staff after winning a record number of new orders. A new management team has taken the helm at Thompson Friction Welding in Hereford Rise.

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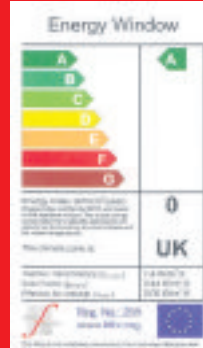
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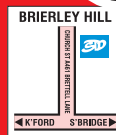
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99p boss blew £19,000 shop takings in casino

A SHOP manager who stole more than £19,000 takings from his branch of 99p Stores and then blew it at a casino has been jailed and now faces deportation.

Vishnu Amuram, manager at the shop in Halesowen, has been jailed for 12 months and now faces being deported to his native India once he completes his prison sentence. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last that the 32-year-old had sole responsibility for running the store in Halesowen's Cornbow Centre.

Among his responsibilities was bagging up the takings at the end of the day and placing the money in a secure location.

Roulette

But over four days last December, Amuram had instead pocketed the cash and used it to gamble on the roulette table at a casino. He lost all of the cash – a total of £19,240 – apart from £525 which was recovered after he admitted his deception.

Miss Helena Miller, prosecuting, said Amuram, of Aldridge Road, Perry Barr, had contacted his area manager on the morning of December 19 to admit what he had done.

"Amuram said he had gambled the money away at a casino and admitted he had a gambling problem," Mr Ayoub Khan, defending, said. "He has been candid throughout the proceedings. He pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and admits he has a gambling problem."

He said Amuram, who pleaded guilty to theft, had also claimed he had been trying to raise money to pay for an operation needed by his sister.

Charity given cash boost

PUPILS at a Black Country school have handed over £400 to a charity that employs adults with learning disabilities.

The youngsters at St Mary's CE Primary in Kingswinford sold toys, books, toiletries, cakes and ornaments to raise the cash.

It was donated to Lunch on the Run on the Pensnett Trading Estate, which produces food for meetings and events.

Bell of a coup for pub



Owner Joanne Narbett with head chef Trevor Fear at the Bell and Cross pub, Holy Cross, Clent, which has won two awards

A VILLAGE pub has been voted the best in the region by the readers of The Good Beer Guide.

The Bell and Cross, Clent, near Stourbridge, has netted two awards in the 2012 guide. It won Heart of England Pub of the Year and the Worcestershire County Dining Pub of the Year for the fifth time in a row.

Husband and wife team Roger and Joanne Narbett have run the pub with their business partner Paul Mohan since 2000. "It's a fantastic achievement for The Bell and

Cross team and for putting the beautiful village of Clent on the map once again," said Mr Narbett. "These awards recognise the hard work put in by every member of the team without whose support these awards would not have been possible."

Mr Narbett was chef to the England football team for 10 years and worked at the Dorchester Hotel, London, while Mr Mohan was a chef at the Hyatt Regency, in Birmingham, and Claridges Hotel, London.

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LETTERS

thechronicle

Rotary send thanks for generosity

Grave reservations over the new HS2

ON BEHALF of the Rotary Club of Sedgley & Wombourne, we would like to thank everyone in Wombourne, Sedgley and Gornal who contributed so generously to our annual street and house-to-house collections during December 2011.

Also the patrons of Ashwood Garden Centre, Sedgley Co-op and Sainsbury's of Wombourne.

We are delighted to be able to report that we raised a record amount of just over £5,000. This magnificent achievement enables us to continue our important work of supporting Compton Hospice, South Staffs First Responders and the many other local and rotary charities.

A breakdown of the total by area shows £1,200 was donated in our street collections in Sedgley and Gornal, £1,300 in our street collections in Wombourne and £2,500 in our static collections at Ashwoods Garden Centre, Sedgley Co-op and Sainsbury's of Wombourne.

RICHARD GARBETT, President, Rotary Club of Sedgley & Wombourne

Boxed inflation

ON A trip to the new Tesco at Burnt Tree Island in Dudley I was amazed to see a bottle of Stella Cidre for £1 but a case of 8 bottles priced at £11.99, so Tesco charges you £3.99 for a cardboard box—unbelievable!

Now that's inflation!
DAVE POWIS
Lower Gornal

HS2, HAS the nod, at an estimate of a mere £32 billion we can now go ahead and build our very own high speed railway.

The chairman of HS2 Plc. assures us the cost of this venture will not rise over the time it takes to construct this mammoth building project, and indeed he fully expects it to come in under budget and on time. exactly what planet does he live on?

But not to worry about costs and schedules, we are confidently assured this project will generate 20,000 jobs within the UK. Have we any guarantee it will not also attract a further 20,000

immigrants from all over Europe to fill those jobs.

British employers are fond of telling us foreign labour is more reliable than the home grown variety, but the bottom line is they are cheaper, it all comes down to money in the end, immigrant labour works for poorer wages and conditions than we do. Who, I wonder will get the contract to build the new coaches that will be required to be built for these new super trains? Will it go, as it ought to, to our own Bombardier, or will it once again be awarded to a German competitor?

Only time will tell. At the end of the

day we must question whether it will ever be used as intended, as a fast efficient means of transport made available to the country as a whole, or will it be restricted to those fortunate few who can afford a ticket.

I have grave reservations over the fact most of the voices raised in favour of HS2 are well-heeled businessmen, who say it will be beneficial to the country, but of course they would, wouldn't they, they will be the only ones with the wherewithal to use it.

B PARSONS,
Millard Road,
Coseley

Hard to read but book still inspires

MY FAVOURITE sport is, and has been since I was very young, cycling.

When my family gave me a book for Xmas Racing Through the Dark, I was delighted.

This is a book about the trials and tribulations of a brilliant Scottish cyclist, David Millar.

I am still reading it, because I have found it hard going. Hard going because I am trying to really appreciate the point David is making.

Do not get me wrong, I asked for this book knowing full well the problems that David has had in his life.

He is very gifted, but as a professional racing cyclist he succumbed to temptation. It is a very inspirational book I wish had been around when I was young.

PETER COLE,
Kingswinford.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

dudleychons@
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Don't meddle with politics of Scotland

AS A British subject with strong Scottish leanings, I am dismayed at the histrionics coming out of Westminster on the subject of a Scottish Referendum on Independence.

Cameron, Clegg and Miliband, by all their posturing are playing into Alex Salmond's hands and are in danger of alienating the Scots.

However, this may be a ploy on their part to rid themselves of the Scottish vote which is a constant source of embarrassment to their respective parties come election time. Alex Salmond is honouring an election pledge to hold a Referendum on independence, a rarity for any political party which promises referendums and then welves on them. We, who are of Scottish blood but live in England, were not allowed a vote on devolution, but those of English origin and living in Scotland were and the vote was carried on a minority of 44 per cent. No doubt the same will happen when the Referendum on Independence comes about.

My advice to Cameron, Clegg and Miliband is keep out of Scottish affairs.

REG SEGGER, Swinforce Way, Swindon

Tyranny of mobiles while in a theatre

ON A recent visit to The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton for the pantomime it proved to be excellent, a most enjoyable show.

I was seated next to a young man holding his smart phone. I would suggest nuisance phones would be a more appropriate name.

Prior to the start I said I hoped he would not be displaying this contraption during the show. He said he would not, and duly complied. Why then, even after a request for mobiles to be switched off, did some people insist on these brightly lit phones being flashed around? Thankfully an usherette shone her light on the offending phone but what is it with these people cannot leave them alone even for a couple of hours.

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Bus station progressing

THE CREATION of a new £7m bus station in Stourbridge has moved to the next phase, with work to fit out the main building under way and some phases of the development nearing completion.

Work to create the interchange has been ongoing since the previous, outdated, station was closed in October 2010. It will provide 11 stands and Centro aims to have it up and running by the spring.

Work has begun on constructing the internal layout of the building in Foster Street East.

Centre car park closing

THE MULTI-STOREY car park in Bell Street, Stourbridge will close today as work on a new Tesco superstore progresses.

After then shoppers have to use the Rye Market Centre's multi-storey.

The Bell Street centre will be demolished in April to make way for the revamp of the Crown Centre which will see a Tesco built, creating 400 jobs. Dudley Council says that the Rye Market multi-storey car park in the town centre has more than 200 spare car parking spaces each day.

Motorists are reminded the 90-space Church Street car park at the top of High Street near Hagley Road also has long-stay capacity. Leading councillors describe the revamp as "the most significant regeneration scheme in Stourbridge for many decades".

Councillor Patrick Harley, the council's cabinet member for transportation, said: "We have carried out assessments of all of our car parks to determine usage rates, and we are confident that we have the capacity to meet the demand."

Demolition

"It must be stressed that Bell Street is an old and outdated building which was due for demolition regardless of this exciting regeneration development," he added.

"People who usually park on Bell Street will of course need to change their habits and use alternative car parks in the town such as the Rye

Market multi-storey, which is only 200 metres from Bell Street."

A new 543-space underground car park is being built as part of the Crown Centre redevelopment.

Councillor Angus Adams, the council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This multi-million-pound project marks the most significant regeneration scheme in Stourbridge for many decades."

"We anticipate it acting as a catalyst for further investment and development in the town."

"The arrival of Tesco will provide an anchor store for the town which we hope will benefit local people and lead to an increased footfall in the town to the benefit of our other shops."

Mayor officially opens college's £1m extension

A £1.1MILLION extension of Kidderminster College has been officially opened by the town's mayor, who unveiled a plaque commemorating the occasion.

Staff, students and business leaders turned out to mark the completion of the development at the Market Street campus.

Mayor of Kidderminster Councillor Anne Hingley was the guest of honour at the ceremony. She was given a tour of the site and chatted to some of the students.

They included Fern Carey, aged 17, and John Phillips, aged 18.

She was also treated to a deluxe manicure in the college's Elements Salon.

Other guests including Ian Miller, chief executive of Wyre Forest District Council, and Louise Hewett of Hewett Recruitment.

The extension has created an extra 6,400 sq ft of space over three floors with rooms for students to socialise, staff offices and more flexible teaching areas.

College principal Andy Dobson said: "It was great to have not only the mayor, but also so many local business leaders, showing their support for the college. This college is all about equipping learners with the skills they need to thrive in the real world and the new extension provides us with some really attractive learning spaces where we can do that."

Plans for the scheme were drawn up after the Skills Funding Agency approved a grant of a third of the cost of the project. The college has around 4,000 students studying on both part-time and full-time courses.

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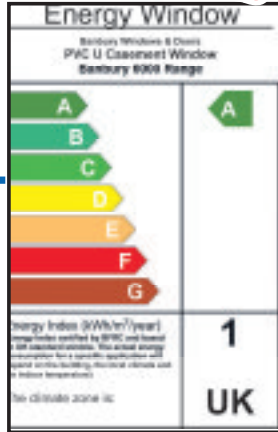
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LOCAL LAD HAMZAH GETS READY TO WALK WITH BEEFY

"Seeing your child being treated for leukaemia is really traumatic. We want as many people in the area as possible to sign up to walk with Beefy to raise money to help children like him, beat blood cancer."

Hamzah's Mum, Riffet

Local schoolboy Hamzah Sadiq, 11, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) when he was 8 years old after experiencing shooting pains in his chest and back.

Hamzah and his family will join Sir Ian Botham when he comes to Birmingham on his Great British Walk on 17 April. All walkers will raise money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, here in Birmingham, to help beat childhood blood cancers.

Sir Ian "Beefy" Botham has been doing fundraising walks for the charity since 1985. Back then, only 20% of children survived the most common form of leukaemia. Thousands of Beefy miles, 27 years and £13 million later, 90% of children now survive. But there are still children and teenagers

for whom the outlook is not so good and treatments are still gruelling. The charity's researchers in Birmingham are working hard to develop better and safer treatments for children with these cancers.

Hamzah's Mum Riffet says: "When they confirmed that Hamzah had leukaemia I just fell apart. I have managed to hold it together through lots of things but I just couldn't stop crying. I remember it was the X-factor final and I just wanted to take him home with his sister Alaiyah, and for everything to be normal but they had to keep him in and start chemotherapy straight away. People really need to understand what families like ours have been through because it can be a really traumatic journey."

Beefy's Great British Walk will be coming to Birmingham on Tuesday 17 April, when he will be walking from the city centre to Clent Hills.



Join Hamzah and Beefy to walk the final 4 miles to the finish line. To book your place and walk to beat childhood blood cancer, visit beatingbloodcancers.org.uk/beefywalk2012, where you can also read more about Hamzah's story.

Beefy's Great British Walk in Birmingham is kindly supported by:



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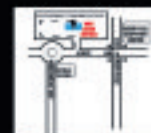
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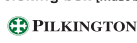
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thechronicle

Options for care home are open for discussion

Greek menu at college



Catering student Eve Evans, aged 16, a former pupil of Dormston School, ready for a Greek-themed event at Halesowen College

TWO themed nights at Halesowen College's restaurant will feel distinctly Greek.

Catering students have planned Greek nights for February 29 and March 1, preparing an extensive

Greek menu, organised by Anthony Parkes, Becky Parkes and Samuel Joshi. Dinner costs £14.95 per person and diners are asked to arrive at 6.45pm. Call 0121 602 7851 (between 8am and 5pm).

FOUR options for the future of a closure-threatened care home in Kingswinford will be discussed.

Residents, their families and staff are being asked for their views on New Bradley Hall in Compton Drive. It had been earmarked for closure under plans by Dudley Council to shut a number of homes by 2014.

But more than 5,000 people have signed petitions protesting against the proposals announced last year. About 30 residents, some of whom are over 90, face being moved. A consultation has now been launched and will be conducted by pensioners' charity Age UK Dudley. The four options include the council-run care home, which has 31 beds, remaining open to existing and future residents.

Private

Another possibility is that the home is sold off as a going concern to a private company. A third option is for it to stay open to its current long-term residents only while still providing limited short-term care.

The final choice would see it close, the residents moved to other centres and the funding re-invested into providing care at home and extra care housing.

As well as the four options, the council could consider any other suggestion that comes out of the consultation.

Dudley Council's adult social care chief Councillor David Vickers said: "No final decision on the options have been made. The council is open to considering any alternative option that meets the demand for older people's services now and in the future."

Police step up patrols

THE NUMBER of criminal damage attacks in parts of Dudley, Gornal and Woodsetton has forced police to step up patrols.

Sgt Chris Fox, who is leading Operation Consolidation, said they would be on the streets patrolling areas of concern.

Dudley Police says anyone who wants to report suspicious activity in their area can contact Dudley police by dialling 101.

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Roy, 69, won't hear of not competing



Roy Norton prepares for the world table tennis championships for the deaf in Tokyo, Japan

TO MANY sporting types discovering you are going deaf could put a real dampener on your ambitions but not so for one Dudley table tennis player.

After discovering his hearing was deteriorating, veteran player Roy Norton, aged 69, was tested at his local Spec-savers in Stourbridge who confirmed his hearing loss was at 65 per cent.

However, instead of fearing the worst and hanging up his paddle for good he seized the opportunity for a fresh challenge when he realised he was now eligible to play in an international contest.

So Mr Norton, will be soon be jetting more than 6,000 miles to Tokyo to take part in the world table tennis championships for deaf athletes as part of the Deaflympics.

Mr Norton, who still plays for the Victoria Park club in Walsall, has been playing as a hobby for more than 50 years accumulating around 400 medals.

"It will be another experience for me but I like competing and decided to give it a go," said the former factory owner. Mr Norton, of Charnwood Close, Brierley Hill, usually relies on a hearing aid in competitions including the World Veteran Championships.

But competition rules stipulate this is not allowed meaning a whole new training plan before the event starting in April. The Deaflympics is organised by The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf.

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On the cusp of great things – Bridgnorth Station was in a state of limbo in 1968



The last passenger train at Bridgnorth in 1963



Keith Beddoes, of Telford, who led the campaign to bring the SVR back to life



Film star David Niven was a visitor in 1976

Anniversary celebrates golden age of steam

STEAM railway enthusiasts in the Midlands have been celebrating a landmark anniversary.

The first train ran on the Severn Valley Railway 150 years ago and the first passengers hopped aboard on February 1, 1862.

That first train went from Worcester to Shrewsbury but these days it extends 16 miles from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth.

It is no longer in the commercial transport business. A paid staff of about 70 are responsible for administration and commercial activities and about 250,000 passengers use the line each year.

Official celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary will be held in May.

Mike York, director of Severn Valley Railway Holdings, said: "It was never the most popular of railway lines and was not the most successful as a commercial operation.

MEMORY LANE
by Simon Hardy

"It relied as much on fate as it did on regular passengers."

The original Severn Valley line linked Hartlebury, near Droitwich, with Shrewsbury, a distance of 40 miles.

Locomotives and rolling stock were borrowed and the line was absorbed into the Great Western Railway in the 1870s. In 1878 a link line was constructed from Bewdley to Kidderminster.

That enabled trains to run directly from the West Midlands.

The Severn Valley line was never financially successful.

During the Great Western days the pattern of services remained similar, with usually four passenger trains per day in each direction, and a few more on the section south of

Bridgnorth. Freight traffic, which was mostly agricultural or coal from the Highley area, was the principal source of revenue.

The advent of the lorry in the 1930s spelled disaster, although the line was strategically useful in the Second World War.

Bridgnorth town councillor Brian Jones, who was the railway's civil engineer between 1972 and 1982, said: "In 1947, when the railways were nationalised, it became part of British Railways until November 1963 when it closed due to the Dr Beeching cuts.

"The SVR Society opened in July 1965 and it took five years of negotiations to get the five-mile line between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster open."

The line has featured in a number of films including Candleshoe, starring David Niven, and was used for the Sherlock Holmes blockbuster, A Game of Shadows.



Saved from the scrapyard, the Severn valley Railway's first loco



An aerial view of Bridgnorth Railway Station as it looks today

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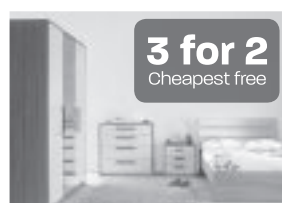
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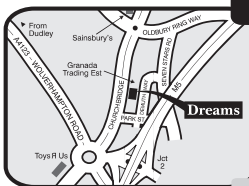
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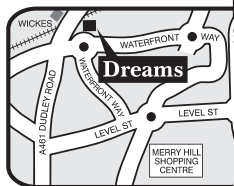
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thechronicle

Freeze on council tax is given all clear by bosses

A FREEZE on council tax for Dudley residents has been approved by council bosses – but rises of 3.5 per cent are planned for the next two years.

Dudley Council's cabinet has approved plans to accept a one-off £2.8million Government grant allowing the authority to freeze council tax for 12 months.

However, the authority has revealed it will raise tax in future years to cover costs. Council leader, Councillor Les Jones, said freezing the council tax will mean bigger increases in future years as the council needs to balance its books.

Rates for properties in the borough will remain the same, with band D homes paying £1,272.67 next year.

Savings

But they are looking at a 3.5 per cent hike for the next two years – or they have warned savings will have to be made "in other areas". Dudley Council finance chief, councillor David Blood, told last Wednesday's meeting: "We will have to increase council tax by 3.5 per cent or look at further savings but we are still in the process of deciding exactly what we will do."

But Labour opposition councillor Pete Lowe said: "This council tax freeze is welcome but the public will need to save to pay their bills in the next two years." The plans will go before full council next month.

Some £22 million of budget savings have been made in Dudley in the past year. Council chiefs also approved proposals to save a further £7.5million in 2012/13 rising to £13million by 2014/15.

Debut novel is a big hit

SALES of a Black Country author's debut novel have soared past 100,000 copies as he spends another week at the top of the UK book charts.

Before I Go To Sleep by Steve Watson, from Stourbridge, was chosen as the featured book in ex-This Morning TV presenters Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan's Book Club.

Phil strikes right chord


Company director Phil Preece with some of the guitars sold by his new business Beryl Guitars, which now has a base in Kidderminster

A MUSICIAN hopes to hit the right chord with customers after bringing his successful guitar manufacturing business to his home town.

Beryl Guitars was launched by Phil Preece, from Blakebrook, two years ago and it has since built a strong online reputation.

When the time came to setting up a showroom there was only one place Mr Preece wanted it to be – his

hometown of Kidderminster.

It will open at Mercian House, in Coventry Street, on February 18. Musicians will be able to pick up specially-designed guitars and equipment for their instruments.

Mr Preece, aged 28, studied music at Kidderminster College before graduating from the Academy of Contemporary Music College, in Guildford.

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OUR SCENIC JOURNEY: Heading north we run via Pendle Hill, North Yorkshire and the famous Settle & Carlisle Railway across the Cumbrian Fells. After a break in Carlisle we return south via the Cumbrian Coast, which as well being the longest Coastal route in England, is considered to be the most scenic! Rural countryside takes us to Maryport and the Solway Coast (just across from Southern Scotland), then via Workington and the rocky coastal route to Whitehaven and St Bees, before heading down-coast to Ravenglass, Millom, Foxfield, Askham and skirting Barrow area. We continue via Dalton, Ulverston, Carlisle, Grange-over-Sands and Morecambe Bay, near the Lakeland Mountains to Arnside, finally passing Silverdale before reaching Carnforth and eventually retracing our steps via the West Coast Mainline back to your joining points, which will be reached by mid to late evening.

CARLISLE: A lunchtime break of up to around 2 hours is expected at Carlisle. You may choose to stroll between the castle, cathedral or indeed the Tullie House Museum — all of which are surrounded by great places to shop, eat or drink. The beauty of Carlisle is that most of the main area of the city is within walking distance of its rail station making it an ideal destination for most visitors.

TICKETS are available at £59 each (STANDARD CLASS — adult), £44 (child under 16 - STANDARD CLASS) & £99 (FIRST CLASS — all ages). These are only available from "Compass Tours". Call 0151 722 1147 (10am-6pm weekdays) for enquiries, seat reservations and debit/credit card bookings, visit www.compassstourbyrail.co.uk send us an SAE or email info@compassstourbyrail.co.uk for further details. Postal bookings are to "Compass Tours", 46 Hallville Road, Liverpool, L18 0HR. Booking conditions available upon request, by sending SAE or check our website.

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BLACKHEATH MORNING TWG

ABOUQUET was presented to vice chairman Doreen Smith as thanks for organising our carol service in December at the Central Methodist Church, Blackheath, which was a resounding success.

Our treasurer, Beryl Hartley, announced that our charity fund for the past year raised £755.50, of which £444.63 was raised at the carol service.

A cheque for £755.50 had been sent to Acorns Children's Hospice, and Beryl thanked all our members for helping to raise such a splendid amount.

Doreen then introduced our speaker, Mr Alan Peace, who gave a splendid talk entitled John O'Groats to Lands End - Bike vs Bus.

This was an extremely entertaining story about his experiences travelling the length of the British Isles on bus, racing against his stepson and friend who were on bicycles.

We were all astonished to find just how far one could travel using a free pensioner bus pass, leaving us all wondering which of us would be first to try it.

After tea and biscuits our meeting was closed at 12.30pm.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 22, at 10.30am at the Moore Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath, when our speaker will be Mr David Hickman whose talk is entitled "Diaries I've enjoyed".

Visitors will be made very welcome.

Busy president's work-life balance



President Julia Jordan (left), immediate past president Renée White and region president Judith Healey help at a table-top sale of unwanted Christmas gifts

JULIA Jordan, president of Soroptimist International of Wolverhampton, welcomed the president of Soroptimist International of Midland Chase region, Judith Healey.

Wolverhampton is one of the 14 clubs which make up the Midland Chase region, and it has been a tradition that it invites the region president to attend and tell members a little about herself.

Julia is a radiographer in a senior position at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, and members were interested to hear of her

WOLVERHAMPTON SOROPTIMISTS

career and how, despite being a busy wife, mother and now grandmother, she has managed a demanding full time job with a long-standing commitment to Soroptimism.

The main theme for her presidential year is teamwork, and how each member needs to join together to "make a difference".

Skydiving can be arranged

THE club welcomed Julie Pearce, who certainly started our 2012 demonstrations with a bang.

Julie's title was Sporting Life, taking us from the dizzy heights of skydiving to the depths of potholing. Her first arrangement with spring flowers was from her riding days. Then came tennis with yellow roses and tulips on a metal frame.

Skydiving was on a beauti-

WALL HEATH FLOWER CLUB

ful large pink vase and she used phormiums, pink orchids, carnations and gerberas.

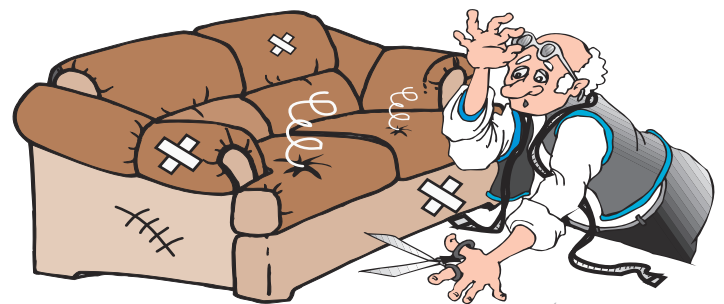
Potholing was done in orange flowers and lastly came rock climbing in white for the white horses seen in the caverns. These were

tulips, lilies and lizianthus with fern and eucalyptus.

Julie's flower arrangements and flowers were excellent and she bought different sports into our lives, which left us quite worn out.

The club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month and visitors are always welcome at £5 per visit to include refreshments. More details from Pauline on 01384 271430.

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thechronicle

400 jobs being axed as Lombard shutting down

Cycling trip for James



Ben Simner, Bradley Bridgwood and modern languages teacher Andy Howell get ready for a charity bike ride in memory of their friend James Treasure with, front left, James's father Hughie

PUPILS will get on their bikes to remember their friend who died aged 13 after a fight against cancer.

The pals of keen rugby player James Treasure are embarking on a 25-mile ride around the Black Country to raise cash for charities.

Ben Simner, 16, and Bradley Bridgwood, 15, went to High Arcal School in Sedgley with James. The pair will set off from the school on March 19 joined by head of modern languages Andy Howell.

Cash raised in sponsorship will go towards the Teenage Cancer Trust and the Make a Wish Foundation, which paid for James to visit Florida before he died. A fun day in his memory raised more than £3,000 for the Neuroblastoma Society.

CAR management business Lombard will be closing its Birmingham base, with the loss of almost 400 jobs.

The business in Brindleyplace, will wind down and close after owner Royal Bank of Scotland failed to find a buyer to take on the operation.

It will affect 397 staff, with 98 set to go in the next few months and the rest within three years.

Lombard employs 295 at its headquarters offices in Birmingham, and another 19 at a sales office on the Pensnett Trading Estate in Kingswinford.

Operation

RBS has been trying to sell the vehicle leasing and fleet management operation for the past two years as part of its post-bailout shake-up.

Its spokesman David Gaffney said today: "Having to cut jobs is the most difficult part of our work to rebuild RBS."

"The decision to close Lombard Vehicle Management was a difficult one but is a necessary step in our plan to de-risk and re-focus RBS, making the bank safer and stronger."

Following its rescue by the Government, RBS identified a string of businesses, like Lombard Vehicle Management, as "non core", and has been seeking buyers for them since 2009.

RBS said remaining staff would stay on to service existing customers while the company is wound down. In future, Lombard's fleet management services will be handled by ALD Automotive.

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9.30am: EXTREME ViPR30
Spin
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11am: Team Extreme

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Security is often overlooked by many people and not thought of as a worthwhile expense, until of course, the worst thing happens. The fact is that some people have not spent anything on securing the home that they live in since the day they moved in. More money is often spent protecting the house from the weather than securing it against would be thieves, and yet the value of home contents has increased considerably with most homes now containing expensive computers, games consoles and HD Televisions; a positive Aladdin's cave to the opportunists.



The technological advances that have been made in the physical security market place have been wide ranging. New lock systems, CCTV systems, alarms and intruder detection systems have all evolved over the last 25 years and are now accessible to normal home-owners.

With recession still hanging over us, the opportunists are forever on the lookout for "Soft Targets" to attack, but unfortunately there are so many available to them. Many people have salt rubbed in to the wound when it transpires that their insurance is invalidated due to inadequate security. Whilst many things can be replaced some things just can't and are lost forever even if the insurers settle their claims.

Upgrading your security does not have to cost a fortune. Just improving your door locks or having a movement detector light fitted can make your defences far more secure. For a minuscule percentage of your home's value you can deter the bad guys and avoid being their next victim.

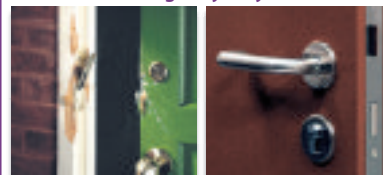
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Chip Week

20TH-26TH FEB 2012

Enjoy chips your way this Chip Week

Chunky, skinny, curly or crinkly - which chip are you? New research commissioned for Chip Week 2012 (20-26 February) maps the nation's favourite chip and condiment combinations. The survey showed that fans of wedges are most likely to dip them in barbecue sauce, and ketchup is most popular with those who prefer oven chips and French fries. Salt and vinegar was voted the most popular chip topping of all, confirming Brits' love affair with chips. Whatever your favourite chip and whichever condiment you prefer, we have the ultimate guide to Chip Week 2012 at www.chips.lovepotatoes.co.uk. Log on to get the latest chip related news, fun facts, a guide to events in your local chippy and a new series of delicious recipes to help you cook amazing chips at home. Chip Week is a chance to celebrate our nation's favourite dish, which starts with the perfect potato produced by dedicated potato growers around the country - follow the story from field to fork. This annual event is run by Potato Council, a division of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (www.ahdb.org.uk).

Think you know everything about chips? Check out the top ten, mind blowing chip facts:

1. A quarter of all potatoes grown in Britain are made into chips - that's around 1.5 million tonnes each year, or nearly the same weight as 125,000 full double decker buses
2. The record number of chip portions sold in a fish & chip shop in one day was 4,000
3. The chips eaten in Great Britain each year come from potatoes weighing the equivalent of nearly 2.9 million Formula 1 cars. Laid end to end, those chips would take you around Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit over 1.5 million times - equivalent to more than 24,000 British Grand Prix's
4. Chris Verschueren, from Kasteel, Belgium holds the world record for the longest French Fries cooking marathon. He cooked for 83 hours, serving 15,000 portions of chips
5. A recent survey confirmed that 87% of the population love chips!
6. Lady Gaga recently made a late night stop with her tour bus for fish and chips in Marylebone, London. The bus wasn't able to fit outside the chippy so her security team went to pick up the takeaway whilst they found a suitable parking spot
7. We eat 300 million portions of fish and chips in Britain each year
8. During the D-Day landings, the Parachute Regiment landing behind enemy lines in darkness identified friend from foe by using the code word "FISH" and the reply would be "CHIPS"
9. The world's largest fish and chip portion was made in July 2011 at the Wensleydale Heifer pub. The fish weighed in at 20kg and the chips 23.5kg, breaking the previous Guinness World Record which was held by a restaurant in America
10. Friday is the most popular day of the week for eating chips, with around a fifth of the chips eaten then



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**THE CULTURE
SHOW**

BBC2, 6pm

Mark Kermode knows a lot about films. So if he says somebody should have won an award for their performance in a particular movie, you'd better sit up and take notice. He's about to do just that when he hosts this year's Kermode Awards, which celebrate films and actors overlooked by the Oscars. Andrew Graham-Dixon journeys north of the border to review the National Theatre of Scotland's An Appointment with The Wicker Man, and, as Tate Britain opens its new exhibition Picasso and Modern British Art, Alastair Sooke investigates the Spaniard's relationship with surrealist Roland Penrose.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.35 Rachel Allen: Home Cooking.** (R) **12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.** **12.15 Football Focus.** **1.00 Live Athletics.** **4.30 Final Score.** **5.10 A Question of Sport.** (R) **5.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

6.00 Winter Wipeout. Former champions and losing finalists tackle the course, including Babyface Baz, Wheely Dan, Alaca-Dan and Suspicious Helen. Presented by Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram.

7.00 Let's Dance for Sport Relief. New series. Shooting Stars duo Ulrika Jonsson and Angelos Epithemiou, DJs Tony Blackburn and David Hamilton, and cricket star Darren Gough compete in the charity dance show.

8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Game show hosted by Nick Knowles in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

9.10 Casualty. Dixie is suspicious of a new paramedic.

10.00 BBC News; Weather. **10.20 FILM: Starksy & Hutch.** (2004) Comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights of today's games.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15 BBC News.**

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00 CBBC.** **12.00 The Sky at Night.** (R) **12.20 Film: Houseguest.** (1995) Comedy, starring Sinbad and Phil Hartman. **2.05 Film: A Good Woman.** (2004) Comedy drama, starring Helen Hunt. **3.30 Birds Britannia.** **4.30 Flog It!** (R) **5.30 Dad's Army.** (R)

6.00 The Culture Show. Andrew Graham-Dixon reviews the National Theatre of Scotland's adaptation of The Wicker Man, and Mark Kermode presents his own awards for the past year's films.

7.00 Live Cycling. Jake Humphrey presents coverage of the second day of the fourth and final round of the Track Cycling World Cup Classics season, and cricket star Darren Gough compete in the charity dance show.

8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Game show hosted by Nick Knowles in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

9.10 Casualty. Dixie is suspicious of a new paramedic.

10.00 BBC News; Weather. **10.20 FILM: Starksy & Hutch.** (2004) Comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights of today's games.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15 BBC News.**

1.40 The Culture Show.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25 CITV.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **11.20 This Morning: Saturday.** **12.20 ITV News; Weather.** **12.30 May the Best House Win.** (R) **1.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **2.30 Film: Death Becomes Her.** (1992) Black comedy fantasy, starring Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep. **4.25 Regional News; Weather.** **4.35 ITV News; Weather.** **4.50 Live FA Cup Football.** Sunderland v Arsenal (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.20 New You've Been Framed! Featuring a treadmill trauma.

7.50 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.

8.20 Take Me Out. A Hartlepool lifeguard, a pianist from Bournemouth and a London shipbroker try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness presents.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to actor John Hurt and actress Christina Ricci, and also welcomes Celebrity Judge regulars Keith Lemon, Fearnie Cotton and Holly Willoughby. Plus, LMFAO perform.

10.20 ITV News; Weather. **10.35 FA Cup Football Highlights.** Including Chelsea v Birmingham City.

11.35 The Cube. (R)

12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00 In Plain Sight.** **3.45 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.30 ITV Morning News.**

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00 GT Academy.** **7.25 Daytona 24: The Story of the Daytona Challenge 2012.** **7.55 The Morning Line.** **8.55 T4: Everyone's Talking About - Top Ten.** **9.25 T4: Bourjois Boutique.** **9.30 T4: This Means War: T4 Movie Special.** **10.00 T4: New Girl.** (R) **10.35 T4: New Girl.** (R) **11.05 T4: Bourjois Boutique.** **11.10 T4: Playing It Straight.** **12.05 T4: New Girl.** (R) **12.35 T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.05 T4: The Simpsons.** (R) **1.40 Channel 4 Racing.** **4.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.45 Come Dine with Me.** (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Ana Jalais hopes to impress at the final dinner party in Brighton. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News. **7.15 4Thought.tv.** Members of the public discuss the effectiveness of alternative medicine.

7.20 FILM: The Day the Earth Stood Still. (2008) A scientist tries to persuade an alien visitor to Earth that the human race should be allowed to survive. Sci-fi remake, starring Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connolly.

9.10 The Bank Job. Game show, hosted by George Lamb.

10.10 FILM: Final Destination 3. (2006) Horror sequel, starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead.

12.00 Film: The Manchurian Candidate. (2004) Thriller, starring Denzel Washington. **2.15 Dave Gorman's Googlewhack.** **4.05 90210.** (R) **4.45 Brothers & Sisters.** (R) **5.30 Countdown.** (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Demolition: The Tallest Tower.** (R) **11.00 Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol.** (R) **12.00 Film: Al Jennings of Oklahoma.** (1951) Western, with Dan Duryea. **1.30 Film: Gunsmoke.** (1953) Western, starring Audie Murphy. **3.05 Film: King of Kings.** (1961) Drama, starring Jeffrey Hunter.

6.15 5 News Weekend. **6.20 NCIS.** Ducky is attacked by a knife-wielding woman who accuses him of war crimes, alleging he tortured and killed her brother in Afghanistan in the early 1980s. (R)

7.10 NCIS. The agents investigate the private life of a murdered Navy captain. (R)

8.00 NCIS. Inquiries into the death of a Marine land the team squarely in the middle of an inner-city gang war, forcing Gibbs to confront a secret from his past. (R)

9.00 CSI: NY. Danny risks his career when he is knocked unconscious in a bar brawl and comes round to discover an undercover officer has shot his assailant dead.

9.55 Live Boxing. Kid Galahad v Jason Booth. Coverage of the bout for the vacant WBC International Super Bantamweight title at the Magna Centre in Rotherham.

11.30 True Grit: The True Story. (R)

12.30 SuperCasino. **4.00 Nick's Quest.** (R) **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) **4.50 Rough Guide to Islands.** (R) **5.00 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.10 The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.30 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.45 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

ITV2 **2.45 American Idol 4.50 Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.** (2005) **7.05 Film: Twins.** (1988). Comedy adventure, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. **9.20 Take Me Out - The Gossip 10.05 Celebrity Juice 10.50 Film: The Island.** (2005)

ITV3 **2.10 Film: Columbo: Murder with Too Many Notes.** (2000) **4.05 Agatha Christie's Marple 6.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 11.00 Film: Dead Calm.** (1989). Suspense thriller, with Sam Neill, Nicole Kidman and Billy Zane.

ITV4 **3.20 Film: The Man from the Alamo.** (1953) **5.00 Film: The Far Country.** (1954) **7.00 The Sweeney 8.00 Minder 9.00 Film: Jaws 3.** (1983) Thriller sequel, starring Dennis Quaid. **11.00 Film: Scarface.** (1983)

BBC THREE **7.00 Doctor Who 8.30 Top Gear 9.35 Live at the Apollo 10.50 Family Guy 11.35 American Dad!**

BBC FOUR **7.00 Decisive Weapons 8.00 Sinatra Sings 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.45 Storyville: The Jazz Baroness**

E4 **1.45 Hollyoaks 4.20 Perfect Couples 5.15 Scrubs 6.10 The Big Bang Theory 7.05 Happy Endings 7.35 How I Met Your Mother 8.05 Rules of Engagement 8.35 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Epic Movie.** (2007). Fantasy spoof, starring Karl Pinn and Adam Campbell. **10.40 World's Greatest Celebrity Body Shockers 11.50 The Big Bang Theory**

FILM4 **2.55 Timeline.** (2003) **5.05 Faintheart.** (2008) **6.50 Planet of the Apes.** (1968). Sci-fi drama, starring Charlton Heston and Roddy McDowall. **9.00 Max Payne.** (2008) Action thriller, starring Mark Wahlberg. **11.00 Thirst.** (2009)

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HOMELAND

Channel 4, 9.30pm

Whenever a hit US series receives acclaim, it always seems to be snapped up by Sky for broadcast, usually, on its Atlantic channel. So it's a nice surprise to see Channel 4 nipping in to nab Homeland from under its big-spending rival's nose. Like In Treatment, this is based on an Israeli series. It focuses on the idea of what might happen if a US serviceman returned home after seeing action, having become convinced that the terrorists he was sent to find were right after all. The opening episode introduces viewers to Carrie Mathison, a CIA operations officer who's received a tip-off from a contact in Afghanistan about a soldier who has been turned into a sleeper agent by al-Qaeda.

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks: (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.00** EastEnders. **2.50** Penguin Island. (R) **3.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.20** Lifestream. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Polar Bear: Spy on the Ice. (R)

6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison looks back on previous reports, from orienteering in the Lake District's unspoilt spaces, to Julia Bradbury's travels along the River Wye. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. The team returns to Hartland Abbey, Devon, where items of interest include a quilt believed to be made from ballgowns worn in the royal household and a rare piece of pressed glass.

8.30 Call the Midwife. Sister Monica Joan is accused of theft. Last in the series.

9.30 Upstairs Downstairs. New series. Sir Hallam becomes preoccupied with Nazi Germany.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.55 Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Alistair McGowan, Hilary Devey and Josh Groban.

11.35 The Celebrity Apprentice USA.

1.05 Weather. **1.10** Sign Zone: Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) **3.50** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Film: The Burning Hills. (1956) Western, starring Tab Hunter. **1.00** Film: The Gumball Rally. (1976) Car-race comedy, starring Michael Sarrazin. **2.45** Live Cycling. The final day of the Track Cycling World Cup Classics season from London.

6.00 Ski Sunday. The women's World Cup downhill race from Sochi in Russia.

6.45 Coast. The north-west coast of Ireland.

7.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads. Celebrities undertake journeys on some of the most perilous routes in the world. In Alaska, Sue Perkins and Charley Boorman drive along the notorious Dalton Highway. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. With Hollywood actor Michael Fassbender.

9.00 Swimming with Crocodiles - Botswana. Part one of two. Ben Fogle joins a pilot research study of Nile crocodiles in Botswana.

10.00 Three Men in a Boat: The Best Bits. A compilation of highlights from the series.

11.00 Ski Sunday. The women's World Cup downhill race from Sochi in Russia. (R)

11.45 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. Russell Howard joins the presenter in Norwich. (R)

12.15 Film: Southern Comfort. (1981) Action thriller, starring Powers Boothe. **2.00** BBC News. **3.50** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** FA Cup Football Highlights. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.35** Live FA Cup Football. **4.45** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.30** Regional News; Weather. **5.50** ITV News; Weather.

6.05 Dancing on Ice. The nine remaining celebrities battle it out.

8.00 Coronation Street. Lewis returns to the Street and pays back the cash he stole.

8.30 Wild at Heart. Ed is left in charge of the endangered-species project at the clinic, where he meets a beautiful stranger who takes an interest in him - but Du Plessis is suspicious of her motives.

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The results are announced and viewers find out which of the nine celebrities will be leaving the competition for good. Presented by Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley.

10.00 That Sunday Night Show. With Frank Skinner and John Prescott.

10.30 ITV News; Weather. **10.45** FA Cup Football Highlights. Including action from Crawley Town v Stoke City.

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.10** River Monsters. (R) **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.30** Channel 4 Presents - 2012: Helen Turner. (R) **7.35** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **8.05** T4: One Tree Hill. (R) **9.00** T4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2012. (R) **9.20** T4: Bourjoie Boutique. **9.25** T4: Hollyoaks. (R) **11.55** T4: Bourjoie Boutique. **12.00** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Film: Mighty Joe Young. (1998) Family adventure remake, with Charlize Theron. **3.10** Deal or No Deal. **4.05** Time Team. **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.40** 4thought.tv. **5.45** The Political Slot. **5.50** Film: Fantastic Mr Fox. (2009) Premiere. Stop-motion animated adventure, with the voice of George Clooney.

7.30 Home of the Future. The Perera family MOT business is modernised.

8.30 The Hotel. Manager Mark Jenkins ends the summer season with a barbecue pool party.

9.30 Homeland. New series. A CIA agent suspects a recently rescued American prisoner of war may be working for al-Qaeda. Thriller, starring Claire Danes and Damian Lewis.

10.40 FILM: Under Siege 2: Dark Territory. (1995) Adventure, with Steven Seagal, Eric Bogosian, Morris Chestnut, Brenda Bakke and Katherine Heigl.

12.40 Film: Collateral. (2004) Thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx. **2.45** Film: The Grand Finale. (2006) Premiere. Documentary about the 2006 FIFA World Cup. **4.25** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** The Treacle People. (R)

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igan Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Top. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.20** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.00** Film: Murder 101: Locked Room Mystery. (2008) Whodunit, starring Dick Van Dyke. **2.45** Film: Starman. (1984) Sci-fi fantasy romance, starring Jeff Bridges. **4.45** Film: Pearl Harbor. (2001) Romantic Second World War drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.

8.00 Saving Private Ryan: The True Story. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** FILM: Death Race. (2008) Sci-fi thriller, starring Jason Statham, Joan Allen and Ian McShane.

11.10 FILM: Thir13en Ghosts. (2001) Horror remake, starring Matthew Lillard, Tony Shalhoub and Shannon Elizabeth.

12.50 Inside Hollywood. **1.05** SuperCasino. (R) **3.55** Rough Guide to Adventures. (R) **4.10** How Not to Decorate. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
3.55 The Only Way Is Essex **5.25** Film: Wild West (1999) **7.30** Film: The Mummy (1999). Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex. **10.45** Film: The Bodyguard (1992). Romantic thriller, with Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.

ITV3
3.40 Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982). Mystery, starring Peter Ustinov. **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
3.20 Film: The Far Country (1954) **5.20** Film: Nevada Smith (1966). Western, starring Steve McQueen. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Hard Target (1993). Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. **11.00** Film: National Lampoon's Animal House (1978). Campus comedy, starring John Belushi.

BBC THREE
7.00 Let's Dance for Sport Relief **8.00** Young Carpenter of the Year **9.00** Being Human **10.00** Film: Blades of Glory (2007). Ice-skating comedy, starring Will Ferrell. **11.30** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 Sir John Dankworth at the BBC **8.00** Jazz Piano Gold **9.00** Barbara Thompson: Playing Against Time **10.15** Barbara Thompson in Concert **10.30** Film: Lourdes (2009). Premiere. French drama, starring Sylvie Testud.

E4
4.20 Samantha Who? **4.50** Being Erica **5.50** **9.02.10** **6.50** Film: Never Been Kissed (1999). Romantic comedy, with Drew Barrymore, Michael Vartan and David Arquette. **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Skins

FILM4
2.45 Explorers (1985) **4.55** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **6.50** Waitress (2007). Romantic drama, starring Keri Russell and Nathan Fillion. **9.00** Knowing (2009). Mystery thriller, starring Nicolas Cage. **11.20** The Vault of Horror (1993)

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News: Weather. 11.00 Doorstep Crime. 9.59. 11.30 Cowboy Trap. BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.30 Regional News: Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News: Weather. 3.30 Regional News: Weather. 3.45 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News: Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes: Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out. BBC News: Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. Derek plots Roy's downfall. 8.30 Britain's Hidden Alcoholics – Panorama. Presented by Alastair Campbell. 9.00 The Diamond Queen. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 Late Kick Off. 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.20 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. 1.50 Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone: Birdsong. (R) 3.25 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 12.00 Daily Politics. 11.30 BBC World News. 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Britain's Heritage Heroes. 7.00 Operation Hospital Food with James Martin. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff. 9.00 The Tube. 10.00 Watson & Oliver. 10.30 Newsnight. Weather. 11.20 Pan Am. (R) 12.00 BBC News. 3.15 The Super League Show. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.55 Regional News: Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News: Weather. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Cornwall with Caroline Quentin. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Whitechapel. 10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather. 10.30 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 11.05 Law & Order: UK. (R) 12.05 River Monsters. (R) 12.35 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Champions League Weekly. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sali Mall. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 10.5 Channel 4 Presents – 2012: David Clarke – Part Two. (R) 1.10 Film: Rooster Cogburn. (1975) Western sequel, starring John Wayne and Katharine Hepburn. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 SuperScrimpers. 9.00 Coppers. 10.00 My Social Network Stalker: True Stories. 11.10 Homeland. (R) 12.20 Random Acts. 2.15 Shameless. (R) 1.20 Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Stephen Miller – Part Two. (R) 1.25 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 2.00 Comedy Lab: Kabadashen. (R) 2.45 90210. (R) 3.25 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.10 Welcome to Glancingly. (R) 4.15 Home of the Future. (R) 5.10 Full Metal Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.15 Film: The View from Here. (2009) Drama, starring Laura Leighton. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 World's Toughest Truckee. 8.00 5 News Update. 8.00 Police Interceptors. A Christmas party becomes a full-blown riot. 5 News at 9. 9.00 Royal Marines: Mission Afghanistan. 10.00 Film: The Condemned. (2007) Action thriller, starring Steve Austin. 12.15 Soho Blues. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News: Weather. 11.00 Doorstep Crime. 9.59. 11.30 Cowboy Trap. BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.30 Regional News: Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News: Weather. 3.30 Regional News: Weather. 3.45 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News: Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes: Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders: BBC News: Regional News. 8.00 Hollyoaks City. Schira returns to Hollyoaks with her husband Rafi. 9.00 Prisoners' Wives. Lou struggles to leave behind a life of crime. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News: Weather. National Lottery Update. 10.35 Death Unexplained. The coroner investigates the death of a man hit by an Underground train. Last in the series. 11.15 Neighbourhood Watch. (R) 12.00 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. 1.30 Weatherview. 1.35 Sign Zone: Inside Men. (R) 2.35 Horizon: Playing God. (R) 3.35 An Island Parish. (R) 4.05 Rip Off Britain. (R) 4.35 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 12.00 Daily Politics. 11.30 BBC World News. 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. (R) 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Britain's Heritage Heroes. 7.00 Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. The chef visits Lyon. (R) 8.00 Alex Polizzi: The Fixer. Alex helps a failing family-run garage in Ashton under Lyne, Greater Manchester. 9.00 How to Grow a Planet. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. Weather. 11.20 Rubicon. 12.05 Rubicon. 12.50 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.55 Regional News: Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News: Weather. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 River Monsters. 8.00 The Brit Awards 2012. 10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather. 10.30 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 Film: (R) 11.35 The Cube. (R) 12.30 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 3.00 Crossing Jordan. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sali Mall. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.10 Film: They Who Dare. (1954) Second World War drama, starring Dirk Bogarde. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Gok's Teens: The Naked Truth. 9.00 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. 10.00 Shameless. 11.05 Random Acts. (R) 12.20 Random Acts. 2.15 Shameless. (R) 1.20 Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Stephen Miller – Part Two. (R) 1.25 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 2.00 Comedy Lab: Kabadashen. (R) 2.45 90210. (R) 3.25 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.10 Welcome to Glancingly. (R) 4.15 Home of the Future. (R) 5.10 Full Metal Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: Deadly Honeycomb. (2010) Premiere. Mystery, starring Zoo McEllean. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Braveheart: The True Story. 5 News at 9. 9.00 Body of Proof. 10.00 CSI: NY. The head of a notorious Puerto Rican gang is killed. (R) 11.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.55 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. Revisited. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News: Weather. 11.00 Doorstep Crime. 9.59. 11.30 Cowboy Trap. BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.30 Regional News: Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News: Weather. 3.30 Regional News: Weather. 3.45 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News: Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes: Weather. 6.55 Party Political Broadcast. (R) 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip Off Britain. BBC News: Regional News. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Kevin Bridges What's the Story? 11.15 Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 11.55 Film: When a Man Loves a Woman. (1994) 1.55 Weatherview. 2.00 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 2.30 Upstairs Downstairs. (R) 3.30 An Island Parish. (R) 4.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) 4.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 12.00 Daily Politics. 11.30 BBC World News. 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.25 Perfection. (R) 5.10 Antiques Road Trip. 5.55 Party Political Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Britain's Heritage Heroes. 7.00 Escape to the Country. 7.30 Watson & Oliver. (R) 8.00 Gees. Butterflies and Blooms. 9.00 Winterwatch. 10.00 Roger & Val Have Just Got In. 10.30 Newsnight. Weather. 11.20 Film: Storyville: Deadline The New York Times. (2011) 12.45 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.55 Regional News: Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News: Weather. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Live UEFA Champions League. 8.00 Gees. Butterflies and Blooms. 9.00 Newsnight. 10.35 UEFA Champions League: Extra Time. 11.35 Kidnap and Ransom. (R) 12.30 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: Brother's Millions. (1985) 4.15 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sali Mall. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.10 Film: They Who Dare. (1954) Second World War drama, starring Dirk Bogarde. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Gok's Teens: The Naked Truth. 9.00 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. 10.00 Shameless. 11.05 Random Acts. (R) 12.20 Random Acts. 2.15 Shameless. (R) 1.20 Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Stephen Miller – Part Two. (R) 1.25 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 2.00 Comedy Lab: Kabadashen. (R) 2.45 90210. (R) 3.25 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.10 Welcome to Glancingly. (R) 4.15 Home of the Future. (R) 5.10 Full Metal Challenge. (R)

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Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. Revisited. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News: Weather. 11.00 Doorstep Crime. 9.59. 11.30 Cowboy Trap. BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.30 Regional News: Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News: Weather. 3.30 Regional News: Weather. 3.45 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News: Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes: Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders: BBC News: Regional News. 8.00 Hollyoaks City. Schira returns to Hollyoaks with her husband Rafi. 9.00 Prisoners' Wives. Lou struggles to leave behind a life of crime. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Kevin Bridges What's the Story? 11.15 Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 11.55 Film: When a Man Loves a Woman. (1994) 1.55 Weatherview. 2.00 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 2.30 Upstairs Downstairs. (R) 3.30 An Island Parish. (R) 4.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) 4.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 12.00 Daily Politics. 11.30 BBC World News. 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Britain's Heritage Heroes. 7.00 Top Gear. 8.00 Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. 9.00 This World: Japan – Inside the Meltdown. 10.00 Mock the Week Again. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. Weather. 11.20 On Hannibal's Trail. (R) 11.50 On Hannibal's Trail. (R) 12.20 The Tube. (R) 1.20 BBC News. 2.40 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.55 Regional News: Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News: Weather. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Obesity Time Bomb. 8.00 Kidnap and Ransom. 10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather. 10.30 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 The Jonathan Ross Show. (R) 11.35 The Late Debate. 12.05 Take Me Out. (R) 1.00 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 3.00 The Obesity Time Bomb: Tonight. (R) 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sali Mall. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.10 Film: Jesse James. (1939) Western, starring Henry Fonda and Tyrone Power. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Location, Location, Location. 9.00 The Great Ticket Scandal: Dispatches. 10.00 Strictly Baby Disco. 11.00 5 News. 11.05 Random Acts. 12.15 My Social Network Stalker: True Stories. (R) 12.50 Gok's Teens: The Naked Truth. (R) 2.20 The Great Ticket Scandal: Dispatches. (R) 3.15 90210. (R) 3.55 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.35 Time Team. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.15 Film: Concrete Anyons. (2010) Premiere. Mystery, starring Scott Patterson. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. Dex and Xavier confront Stu after he assaults Sasha. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Holiday Heaven on Earth. Oman, Hong Kong and Chicago. 7.30 Live UEFA Europa League Football. Manchester United v Ajax (Kick-off 8.05pm). 10.15 Film: Death Race. (2008) Sci-fi thriller, starring Jason Statham. Joan Allen, Ian McShane and Tyrese Gibson. 12.20 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 HouseBusters. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. Revisited. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News: Weather. 11.00 Doorstep Crime. 9.59. 11.30 Cowboy Trap. BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.30 Regional News: Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News: Weather. 3.30 Regional News: Weather. 3.45 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News: Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes: Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out. BBC News: Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Newsnight. Weather. 11.20 Pan Am. (R) 12.00 BBC News. 3.15 The Super League Show. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 12.00 Daily Politics. 11.30 BBC World News. 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Britain's Heritage Heroes. 7.00 Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. The chef visits Lyon. (R) 8.00 Alex Polizzi: The Fixer. Alex helps a failing family-run garage in Ashton under Lyne, Greater Manchester. 9.00 How to Grow a Planet. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. Weather. 11.20 Rubicon. 12.05 Rubicon. 12.50 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.55 Regional News: Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News: Weather. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Safari Vet School. 8.30 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Film: 10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather. 10.30 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 Film: Walking Tall. (2004) Action adventure remake, starring Dwayne Johnson. 12.05 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.05 Film: King Kong. (1976) Fantasy adventure remake, starring Jeff Bridges. 4.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Jody Cundy – Part Two. (R) 6.20 Sali Mall. (R) 6.25 The Treacle People. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.50 Undercover Boss. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Kirstie's Handmade Britain. (R) 1.05 Film: Murphy's War. (1971) Second World War drama, starring Peter O'Toole. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Gok's Teens: The Naked Truth. (R) 2.20 The Great Ticket Scandal: Dispatches. (R) 3.15 90210. (R) 3.55 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.35 Time Team. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.15 Film: Ladies of the House. (2008) Drama, starring Pam Grier. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Toughest Truckee. 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 Castle. 11.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Eames re-examines the death of her husband. (R) 11.55 Inside Hollywood. 12.05 SuperCasino. 3.55 Motorsport Mundial. 4.20 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 HouseBusters. (R)

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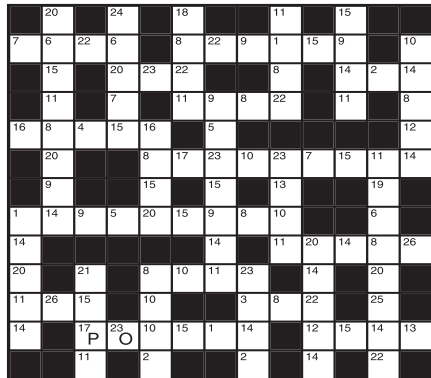
01 902 31 78 78

Brain Gym

No.156

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	L	P	B	Y	G	R	E	H	C	W	Q	V	X
2	Z	K	D	J	N	U	A	O	T	M	F	S	I

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WORD SEARCH
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SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES



OUT NOW!

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. A fool holding established financial benefits (6)
8. Leave the vehicle - it's on fire (6)
10. Turn one into an uncharged particle (7)
- 11 & 12 Ac. What those who make spare parts are engaged in? (9)
13. Failed to interest the directorate, we hear (5)
17. Being stitched together, they could make a mess (5)
18. To signify an intermediate position (4)
22. A practical lesson to be drawn from this sort of victory (5)
23. It's disgusting - so I'm one very upset (7)
- 24 & 9 Dn. Deputy head a very short time in charge (6-2-7)
25. They smooth out level pieces of land, we hear (6)

Down

1. Are those who receive it ill-informed? (3,4)
2. Yes, a rut could form this part of the river (7)
- 3 & 14 Dn. Presenting one's relations! (5-7)
4. Footwear for one on a greasy surface (7)
5. Some of the retrogressive monsters (5)
6. It's not the same having to put up with the girl (5)
9. See 24 Across
14. See 3 Down
15. What tellers do is check the votes again (7)
16. Prose isn't upside down! (7)
19. A tightly-packed crowd get together (5)
20. This is used for drilling a support (5)
21. Shakespeare's testamentary documents (5)

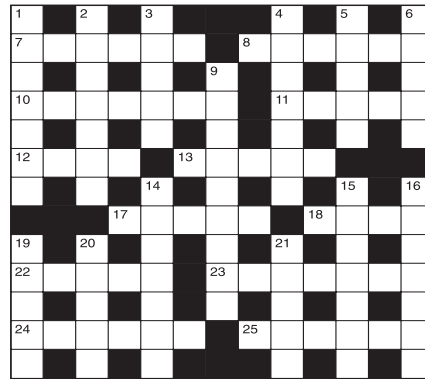
Quick Clues:

Across

7. Sum (6)
8. Whimsical (6)
10. Ogre (7)
11. Handle (5)
12. Sleight (4)
13. Caper (5)
17. Luke-warm (5)
18. Daybreak (4)
22. Perfect (5)
23. Greed (7)
24. Agree (6)
25. Bug (6)

Down

1. Hand-reader (7)
2. Hint (7)
3. Join (5)
4. Support (7)
5. Compare (5)
6. Condition (5)
9. Head (9)
14. Effective (7)
15. Main city (7)
16. Vehement (7)
19. Ultimate (5)
20. Hire (5)
21. Truck (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Attic; 4 Mute; 8 Venison; 9 Grief; 10 Rued; 11 Testator; 13 Back; 14 Code; 16 Elements; 17 Epic; 20 Eaten; 21 Chasten; 22 Tuesday; 23 Horse. Down: 1 Advertisement; 2 Tense; 3 Cast; 4 Minded; 5 Together; 6 Bristle; 7 Effervescence; 12 Screened; 13 Breathe; 15 Sticky; 18 Peter; 19 Dash. QUICK - Across: 1 Rapid; 4 Pretend; 8 Torment; 9 Amass; 10 Over; 11 Infusion; 13 Chop; 14 Stun; 16 Conspire; 17 Tale; 20 Inate; 21 Germane; 22 Element; 23 Wrest. Down: 1 Retrospective; 2 Purse; 3 Deem; 4 Potent; 5 Evacuate; 6 Elation; 7 Disengagement; 12 Complete; 13 Concave; 15 Bright; 18 Adage; 19 Grow.

Sudoku

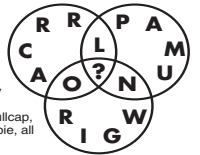
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

9	5	2	7	4	3	6	1	8
1	3	4	2	6	8	7	9	5
6	8	7	5	9	1	2	4	3
7	1	9	1	2	4	3	6	8
4	1	5	3	7	6	8	2	9
8	2	6	9	5	4	1	3	7
2	1	9	1	2	4	3	6	8
3	6	8	7	5	9	1	2	4
5	7	1	6	3	9	4	8	2

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is K. Skullcap, bearskin, porpie, all types of hat.

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APRIL 23-27	PAIGNTON.....	£219 HB
APRIL 25-29	BRIDLINGTON.....	£225 HB
APRIL 30-MAY 4	WEYMOUTH.....	£215 HB
MAY 6-12	TORQUAY (60's week).....	£285 HB
MAY 7-11	LYTHAM ST ANNE'S.....	£245 HB
MAY 7-11	PAIGNTON.....	£245 HB
MAY 13-17	THE LAKES.....	£255 HB
MAY 15-21	ISLE OF WIGHT.....	£329 HB
MAY 21-25	EASTBOURNE.....	£235 HB
MAY 21-25	SKEGNESS.....	£235 HB

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THE MUPPETS - (U) - FLS	1120 1340 1400 1620	THE WOMAN IN BLACK - (12A) - FLS	1235 1430 1640 1850 2100
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	1600 1820	FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	1405
MONDAY TO THURSDAY		MONDAY TO THURSDAY	
ALL WEEK	2040	JACK AND JILL - (PG)	1350 1405
BIG MIRACLE - (PG) - FLS	1250 1510	FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	1405
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY		MONDAY TO THURSDAY	
MONDAY TO THURSDAY		THE VOW - (12A) - FLS	1800 2030
STAR WARS - 3D - (U) - FLS	1730 2020	KIDS CLUB - £1.10 PER TICKET	
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	2020	FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	
MONDAY TO THURSDAY		MONDAY TO THURSDAY	
MONSTER IN PARIS - (U)	1640	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS -	
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	1610	CHIPWRECKED - (U)	1650
MONDAY TO THURSDAY		PUSS IN BOOTS - (U)	1150

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HALESOWEN, HALESOWEN ROAD

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£1300 PCM



HALESOWEN, LUSBRIDGE CLOSE

An unfurnished detached property in a cul-de-sac location, briefly comprising of: Four Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Large Fitted Kitchen, Large Dining Room, Conservatory, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage.

£900 PCM



HALESOWEN, BROMSGROVE ROAD

An Unfurnished semi detached house, in a sought after location, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage, Fantastic Views, Inspection Strongly Recommended.

£875 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY ROAD

Unfurnished three storey townhouse close to town centre, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory, Downstairs wc, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, House Bathroom, Rear Garden, Garage, Parking Space.

£695 PCM



BLACKHEATH, HOLT ROAD

An immaculately presented mid terrace home, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage, Unfurnished.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, ADAMS COURT

An Unfurnished ground floor apartment, Close to local amenities, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Large Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Separate Shower, Parking space.

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, VICTORIA COURT

A Two Bedroomed Second Floor Flat Having Accommodation Including Hall, Generous Lounge, With Balcony Off, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Jacuzzi, Double Glazing And Storage Heating, Communal Gardens.

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAMMERSLEY CLOSE

Located in a nice quiet cul-de-sac, is this unfurnished modern mid terrace house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway for 2 Cars, Rear Garden. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£515 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK

Being recently redecorated and on a quiet road, is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Modern Downstairs Bathroom, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking.

£499 PCM



HALESOWEN, PARK ROAD

This modern mid terrace house, on a bus route to Halesowen and Stourbridge, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Lounge, House Bathroom, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished.

£495 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

A Part furnished apartment close to local amenities, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking.

£495 PCM



OLDBURY, ASCOT CLOSE

Located close to the motorway of J2 M5, is this unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage & Driveway Parking.

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

This lovely and well kept unfurnished second floor flat briefly comprises of: Two Bedrooms, Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space.

£485 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, BELL FARM MEWS

An unfurnished modern end terrace house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Fitted Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Parking Space and Visitors Space.

£485 PCM



TIPTON, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely modern first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Communal Gardens, Internal Viewing Recommended.

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, TEME ROAD

A very well presented and close to Colley Lane Primary School, is this furnished to suit ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Family Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space.

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

A well presented ground floor flat, on this popular development, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes and Patio Doors onto Balcony, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Allocated Parking Space, Unfurnished.

£435 PCM



NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD

An Unfurnished, Modern Ground Floor Flat Briefly Comprising: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom With Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space, Car Port, Communal Garden.

£395 PCM



DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking, Unfurnished.

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

On this popular development, is this unfurnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage, Unfurnished.

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, COOMBS ROAD

Offering excellent value for money, this inclusive refurbished one bedroom first floor flat is available immediately. Briefly comprising of: Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Single Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower and Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. £435PCM will include all bills.

£350 PCM

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Agent Bartlams is asking for offers based on £325,000 for this large property in a quiet cul-de-sac

Extended home that has three bathrooms



The enlarged and improved property at number 4 Glebelands includes five bedrooms and three bathrooms

A CONSIDERABLY enlarged and superbly-presented five-bedroom, three-bathroom detached house in Bobbington is on the market based on offers around £325,000.

The property sits at the end of a small cul-de-sac off Six Ashes Road, with accommodation including hall with guest cloakroom off, spacious lounge, dining room breakfast kitchen with utility lobby adjoining, entertainment room leading to conservatory, master bedroom with en suite shower room and walk-in wardrobe, guest bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms and house bathroom.

There is a garage at the side currently fitted out as a gym, with ample parking to the front and a rear garden bordered by a brook and adjacent to fields and including a hot tub (available by separate negotiation). The house also benefits from oil fired

central heating and double glazing.

Inside the guest cloakroom has a white suite comprising low flush wc and wash hand basin with cupboard below, while the dining room measures 14ft 1in by 11ft 6in.

The lounge, 18ft 8in by 13ft 4in, has a modern fireplace with electric fire and double French doors to the rear garden, while the breakfast kitchen - 13ft 6in by 11ft 8in - is fitted with a range of light oak units comprising floor-based cupboard and drawer units, wood-trimmed worktops, wall cabinets, inset circular bowl and drainer, built-under oven, four-ring electric halogen hob with concealed hood over, integrated dishwasher and fridge.

The utility room, 14ft 5in by 4ft 10in, has matching base units with work tops, tall store unit, wall cabinets, single drainer stainless steel sink unit, space and plumbing for washing machine, space for fridge freezer and

door to garage. The entertainment room is 12ft 10in by 7ft 10in with a French door to the conservatory with door to the rear garden.

On the first floor the master bedroom has an en-suite with white suite comprising shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and low flush wc.

Bedroom two has an en-suite with white suite comprising shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and low flush wc, and there are three other bedrooms and a house bathroom with white rope edged suite comprising panelled bath, pedestal wash hand basin and low flush wc.

The property is approached by an extensive tarmac forecourt with ample parking for numerous vehicles, while the rear garden has a paved patio area with hot tub and lawn edged with conifer trees.

Call estate agent Bartlams on 01902 894141 for more details.



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Greenwood Avenue, Rowley Regis



£90,000

A two bedroom end terrace property comprising lounge, kitchen, conservatory, shower room, driveway and rear garden.

Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen



Offers Over £100,000

A two bedroom terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway and rear garden

Stourbridge Road, Halesowen



A two bed terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

£166,000

The Fairways, Rowley Regis



A four bedroom terraced property comprising kitchen, lounge, bathroom, en-suite, garage, driveway and rear garden.

£174,995

Perry Park Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £125,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, utility and bathroom. Driveway and rear garden. No upward chain.

Astley Crescent, Halesowen



A semi detached property comprising lounge diner, kitchen, dining room, utility room, four bedrooms, bathroom and en-suite.

£210,000

Yew Tree Lane, Rowley Regis



A four bedroom detached property comprising dining room, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility, bathroom, en-suite, driveway and rear garden.

£210,000

Highbury Avenue, Rowley Regis



£125,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, bathroom, driveway and rear garden.

Peachley Close, Halesowen



£140,000

A two bedroom detached bungalow comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway and rear garden.

Firth Park Crescent, Halesowen



A three bedroom detached property comprising lounge/diner, breakfast kitchen, bathroom, garage, driveway and front and rear gardens. No upward chain

£200,000



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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

The Passat CC is a step up in VW's saloon range

ONCE A maker of simple, honest cars, recent years have seen Volkswagen step up its game to be a major player in almost every sector of the market.

The evolutionary process has been a steady one, with the result a constantly expanding line-up of increasingly competent and desirable cars.

A case in point is the Passat CC; a more streamlined and upmarket alternative to the firm's regular Passat saloon.

Viewed by some as a more affordable and less flash Mercedes CLS, the Passat CC's coupe-like profile, refined cabin ambience and mature driving manners earned it a place in the hearts of many seeking to escape the predictability of a conventional three-box saloon. Facelift time has seen a few things added to the car's skill set and one noticeable subtraction: the Passat moniker.

In keeping with the original car's North American naming convention, it's now just Volkswagen CC. Although partly to keep things simple, this is also to help distance the car from its regular Passat cousin. It's hoped buyers will view the car in its own light, and with the subtle exterior design changes make a stronger connection to Volkswagen's flagship Phaeton saloon than the mass market Passat.

It's certainly a clever mind trick and, crucially, one

By Matt Joy

that works once you clap eyes on the CC's new grille and headlight arrangement – its resemblance to the Phaeton is no coincidence. At the rear there are new taillights and a reshaped bumper but in reality, little else has changed on the outside.

Volkswagen's new focus is on ramping up refinement, which has resulted in improved levels of soundproofing. The aim was to make the already quiet Passat CC even better. The good news is that Volkswagen has succeeded. Despite the CC's posh exterior, its predecessor was a firm favourite with company car drivers, and this car's motorway cruising has been further enhanced thanks to extra soundproofing.

Maintaining the 'premium value' theme more kit is now available, with the car's standard specification including Bluetooth, DAB, xenon headlights and sat-nav at base level. Leather seats, adaptive dampers, cruise control and parking sensors can be found on the higher spec GT models.

A long list of options includes an adaptive high beam headlight mode, heated and cooled front seats, blind spot warning, a reversing camera, a 'city safe' urban auto braking function and the ability to open the car's boot by sweeping your foot under the rear bumper –

great for when your hands are full with shopping.

Make no mistake, Volkswagen knows what it's doing with the CC. This generous level of standard and optional kit plays right into the hands of buyers seeking a plush-looking executive car with one eye on their modest budget. None of the more expensive traditional German choices can compete at this level.

And it's inside the CC where its high value character really comes to the fore. All the materials you can touch and see are a cut above anything else in its (almost) sub-£30,000 price range. Then again, this shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone already familiar with modern day Volkswagen interiors.

Satisfying

Driving the CC is just as satisfying as sitting in it and admiring the fixtures and fittings. Save for the standard-fit addition of Volkswagen's trick electronically controlled XDS differential on cars with more than 170 horsepower – that means the high output 2.0-litre diesel – little has changed since dropping the Passat name.

Like before, the CC delivers a refined and mature ride – even on the GT's large 18-inch alloy wheels – yet also proves engaging enough to raise a smile on twisty backroads. Volkswagen isn't promoting it as an all-

out performance saloon, but the CC is a willing companion boasting more agility than its size suggests. Part of this performance is down to engine choice. There are 1.8 and 2.0-litre petrol units offering 160 and 210 horsepower respectively, but it's the 2.0-litre diesels in 140 and 170 horsepower guise that will prove the most popular. CO2 is a low 125g/km for the 140 and 139g/km for the 170 horsepower motor respectively due in part to engine stop-start brake energy regeneration technology.

Factor in a smooth-shifting DSG auto gearbox for a small CO2 penalty and you've got yourself an extremely polished and financially rewarding ownership experience. Volkswagen's been smart enough to only change the few details that needed polishing, proving that the CC was a fundamentally sound car in the first place. And long may it remain so.



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PEUGEOT 207 1.4 CIELO 08 Reg, 5-dr, Blue Metallic, AC, Alloys, Glass Roof, 23k, FSH	SOLD
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SEAT LEON 1.9 TDI REFERENCE 57 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, AC, 59k, FSH	£6495
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SPORTS

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Efficiency the byword for Ford's new engine

Ford's hi-tech, ultra-efficient, turbocharged, direct injection 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine goes on sale across the Ford Focus range in the UK next month.

This unique, industry-first EcoBoost engine delivers performance to rival a traditional 1.6-litre engine with significantly improved fuel efficiency and class-leading ultra-low CO2 emissions.

The 1.0-litre, three-cylinder EcoBoost engine is available with two power levels – in the five-door Focus at 125PS it delivers a combined fuel economy of 56.5mpg and low petrol CO2 emissions of 114g/km (a level unmatched by Focus competitors with similar power outputs), while the 100PS version delivers a combined fuel economy of 58.9mpg and outright best-in-class petrol CO2 emissions of 109g/km.

Around 200 UK engineers based at Dunton and Dagenham successfully developed a powertrain which not only leads on fuel economy but also delivers the refined and spirited driving performance that customers have come to expect from Ford. Though the 1.0-litre



EcoBoost cylinder block can fit onto a sheet of A4 paper it delivers up to 125PS and 170Nm peak torque (200Nm with overboost) between 1,400 and 4,500rpm, giving it the highest power density of any Ford production engine to date. Graham Hoare,

European executive powertrain director based at Dunton, said: "This is the third addition to our acclaimed EcoBoost engine family. Joining the 1.6-litre and 2.0-litre EcoBoost engines which span 150PS to 240PS, this 1.0-litre EcoBoost signals a new era of downsized, super frugal engines for the sub-130PS segment. During development our UK engineers focused on improving thermal efficiency and reducing friction of the engine's internal moving parts, especially during warm-up."

Improved

In addition to the customer benefits resulting from improved fuel consumption and petrol being up to 10p per litre cheaper than diesel, the lower CO2 emissions translate into direct customer savings. The 100PS and 125PS version will both qualify for zero vehicle excise duty in the first year and then £20 (100PS) and £30 (125PS) a year thereafter. Compared with the current 1.6-litre 105PS and 125PS engines, this represents savings of £115 in year one and £95 and £85 respectively in subsequent years.

Company car drivers will see attractive benefit-in-kind rates of only 13 per cent in 2012/2013 equating to savings on a Focus Zetec of up to £32 per month at the 40 per cent tax level versus the current 1.6-litre 105 and 125PS engines.

Mark Ovenden, Ford Britain managing director, said: "Gone are the days when the number of cylinders dictates performance. This highly efficient, technically advanced powertrain is not only great fun to drive, but it delivers fuel economy improvements and ultra-low CO2 emissions which lead to real world cost savings for our customers."

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The Ford Focus – first to benefit from the new EcoBoost engine

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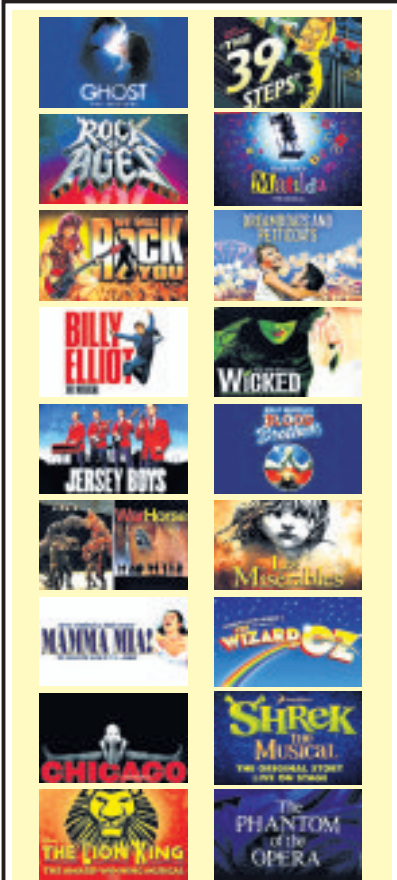
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SPORT

thechronicle

Old Hales lose tie and their discipline

Shrewsbury 2
Old Halesonians 0

OLD Halesonians hockey firsts saw their promotion hopes slip away on a cold afternoon in Shrewsbury when they finished with just nine men.

The fixture was one of just a handful to survive the freezing temperatures but brought only disappointment for the visitors.

Shrewsbury dominated from the start, pressing high up the pitch and stifling Hales' attempts to get their free-flowing game running.

The visitors did create some chances but they were unable to convert them.

Shrewsbury opened the scoring when a penalty corner was awarded against defender Ben Hughes for not being five metres from a Shrewsbury corner.

The penalty corner was well worked to give the home side a 1-0 lead.

Respond

Old Halesonians had several penalty corners, but were unable to score following last-ditch defending from Shrewsbury.

The home team grabbed their second before the half-time when a lapse in concentration allowed their midfielders to flood the D unmarked and slot the ball past keeper James Jones.

Hales responded well in the second period. Chances fell to Tom Bulteel, Josh Randhawa and Harry Hughes, but all three were unable to find the net.

Shrewsbury struck on the counter-attack, having an effort disallowed for a high kick.

Old Hales continued to pressurise and their penalty corner count increased, but they could not find a way past the Shrews' defence.

The disappointment of a poor performance turned into frustration as Old Hales lost their discipline.

Paul Harrold was sin-binned for dissent, and Hales were soon reduced to nine men, when Harry Hughes was yellow carded for throwing his stick after being substituted.

The double yellow carding will almost certainly lead to Hales being docked points.

Old Hales fifths lost 3-2 at Evesham.

Games for the seconds, thirds, fourths and ladies were all cancelled on Saturday due to frozen pitches, as was the firsts' England Hockey Trophy game on Sunday against Sutton Coldfield.



Jonas Olsson celebrates after his shot squirmed through Wayne Hennessey's hands



The future's bright, the future's - well, dark blue. Albion fans celebrate in the smoke

Delight of derby day will last for decades

Wolves 1 Albion 5

WHAT better place than Molineux for Albion to claim their most emphatic Premier League win ever?

Baggies fans arrived at Molineux on Sunday hoping for a memorable afternoon. What they got was a once-in-a-generation thrill ride, writes **Steve Madeley**.

Hat-trick hero Peter Odemwingie led the way and his Albion team-mates fell stylishly into line to produce the kind of dream derby day that most of the 2,300 travelling supporters will only have seen before in their grandparents' scrapbook.

As goals rained in for the Baggies and abuse rained down on Mick McCarthy in what became his final Wolves game, derby records tumbled and Odemwingie penned his own chapter in Hawthorns history. It was the Baggies' biggest victory at Molineux for 50 years.

Odemwingie was the club's first treble-scorer since Ronnie Allen in the 1954 Charity Shield. And statistics aside, the win provided the most enjoyable day that many of the visiting supporters will ever have had following their team.

Create

It was akin to Michael Owen's finest hour for England against Germany in Munich - a 5-1 success that had away fans rubbing their eyes in disbelief.

And the army of Albion loyalists could revel in the knowledge that the four-goal margin did not flatter their side. It was the least they deserved on an afternoon when they blew away their fiercest rivals to create memories that will last for decades.

Dozens of Baggies fans walked from the Hawthorns to Molineux. Had they known the treat they had in store, thousands would gladly have crawled the 10.5 miles over broken glass.

Those who were lucky enough to be at the



Misery for Mick McCarthy



Striker Peter Odemwingie nets his second goal, and Albion's third, with a sharp pivot and finish

ground will be telling tales of the day for years. Odemwingie led the way with an unlikely hat-trick. But far from being the sole architect of a stunning triumph, the marksman was merely the standard-bearer for a ruthless collective demolition of Wolves that left fans struggling to comprehend what was unfolding.

Their team were so dominant that, against other opponents, they might even have mustered a little sympathy for the vanquished. Against Wolves, however, there was no such compassion and the more the home fans squirmed, the more the visitors enjoyed it.

During half-time were they subdued after Steven Fletcher's equaliser on the stroke of the interval gave the home side 15 minutes of parity that were barely believable, such was the dominance Roy Hodgson's side

showed in the opening half. With James Morrison pulling the strings from midfield and Marc-Antoine Fortune a hugely effective focal point, the Baggies had picked Wolves apart and led when Odemwingie cut in-field on 23 minutes and unleashed a shot that ricocheted off Dave Edwards and deceived Wayne Hennessey.

Charge

Only two fine saves from Hennessey had denied the Baggies the clear daylight their display deserved and Fletcher's crisp turn and finish after Sylvan Ebanks-Blake's smart pass came like a bolt from the blue.

Yet after weathering the briefest spell of Wolves pressure early in the second half, Albion took charge. Jonas Olsson blasted home from a corner with the help of a Hennessey fumble to restore the lead before a

momentary rally by McCarthy's men and two headers provided Albion with a couple of scares. First from Fletcher when Ben Foster pulled off a flying save and then when a combination of Youssef Mulumbu, Liam Ridgwell and the bar came to their rescue from Roger Johnson's effort. But with 13 minutes remaining Olsson's inspired backheel from another corner set up Odemwingie to sweep home his second goal and send Wolves fans heading for the exits.

Half-time substitute Keith Andrews bit the hand that once fed him with a debut goal from Odemwingie's run and cross before the Nigeria international completed his own memorable day, capping the best move of the match to blast home a Morrison cross.

His joy was evident as celebrated in front of the Steve Bull Stand, which by then was a sea of boinging blue and white.

Mutley loses but is ready for more

WEST Bromwich's Young Mutley is looking to cash in on his status despite being eliminated from Prizefighter in the semi-finals for a second time.

Just over two years after bowing out to Colin Lynes in the last four of the first light welterweight Prizefighter, Mutley was pipped by Tyrone Nurse in the sequel at Wolverhampton Civic Hall, writes **Craig Birch**.

Nurse lost to English welterweight champion Adil Anwar in the final on Saturday night as Mutley was left considering whether to put himself forward as a "shot" fighter.

As a former holder of the British welterweight title - which Lynes now holds - Mutley could find himself looked on as an opponent for up-and-coming fighters to get the star "rub".

If it swells the bank balance and gets him back to the British title, Mutley would consider doing it. Lynes only got his shot because he was considered as a stepping stone for Lee Purdy.

Aim

Mutley admitted he is open to offers and the 35-year-old - real name Lee Woodley - still possesses the punch power to rock their world.

He said: "We will see what happens, Colin Lynes only got to the Prizefighter semi-finals and he got a British title shot."

"I didn't disgrace myself, I feel I have still got it and I am carrying on. I want title fights so to box someone in the top 10 has got to be my way in."

"That's my aim next, maybe I could fight one of the kids who were involved on Saturday night and I will fight them anywhere, it doesn't bother me."

Mutley got to the semi-finals after overcoming Telford's Mark Lloyd. It was tough going for both fighters as they are close friends and stablemates who train at the same gym, Wednesday Boxing Academy.

Results

Quarter-finals: Young Mutley beat Mark Lloyd 30-27, 28-29, 30-27; Tyrone Nurse beat Dale Miles - third round stoppage; Adil Anwar beat Barry Morrison 30-27, 29-28, 29-28; John Watson beat Dean Harrison - first round stoppage.

Semi-finals: Nurse beat Mutley 29-28, 29-28, 29-28; Anwar beat Watson 30-27, 30-27, 30-27.

Final: Anwar beat Nurse 30-28, 30-27, 29-28.

Prizefighter Prospect contests: Ryan Aston beat Kieron Gray - first round stoppage; Tommy Ghent beat William Warburton 40-36.

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Super Albion go
nap at Molineux
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Tyne Tees boxers too canny for the lads

JAMES BEECH and George Battenbough bowed out of the ABA Schoolboys national championships in the quarter-finals last weekend.

Beech, the Brownhills Comprehensive School pupil from Pleck ABC, lost the last two rounds and the contest to High Fell ABC's Jeffrey Nesham on Sunday afternoon, writes Craig Birch.

And the previous day, Aston ABC's Battenbough brought his first year in the competition to an end with defeat to the talented Peter Smith, of Darlington ABC.

The Manchester Boxing Centre of Excellence staged the event for the second weekend running as the Midlands Counties went up against the Tyne, Tees and Wear region.

Unsure

In Class Three – boxers born in 1997 – Beech faced Nesham in a cagey bout at 46kg that eventually went against him by a point, 7-6.

The two were level after the first round, 1-1, and Nesham appeared to be unsure whether he had taken the second session but he had, 3-2.

That made Nesham come forward in round three and, although his punches weren't always accurate, it was enough to convince the judges to hand him the result.

Battenbough was already out after his undefeated record went with a loss to Smith in Class One – boxers born in 1999 – at 58kg.

The Cardinal Wiseman School student has been a slow starter this year and found himself down after the first two rounds, 5-1 and 12-3.

Battenbough picked up in the last session but the judges still gave Smith the round and the contest by a harsh score of 17-3.

Truman fights but not for title

ASTON'S Chris Truman will box Lenny Daws on Saturday as planned but it will not be for the vacant English light welterweight title. The British Boxing Board of Control have refused to approve it for the English crown, so it will go ahead as an eight-rounder.

Daws would have been passed as a challenger, as an ex-holder of the title and former two-time British champion. But Truman's relative inexperience has convinced the board to decree he is not yet ready for a shot at the belt.

Morgan returns to hunt for new boss

by Martin Swain

OWNER Steve Morgan has flown back from holiday as Wolves seek a new manager after sacking Mick McCarthy.

Morgan was on a skiing trip when Sunday's 5-1 Molineux derby defeat by Albion culminated in him ending McCarthy's five-and-a-half-year reign next morning.

Morgan has been updated by chief executive Jez Moxey on the candidates lining up to fill the breach.

Wolves have described as "pure guesswork" reports that a three-man shortlist of Alan Curbishley, Neil Warnock and Steve Bruce had been compiled. But the club

expect to conduct interviews of their favoured few by Thursday in the hope that the new boss can have a full week to prepare for the trip to Newcastle and the start of the club's 13-game bid for Premier League survival.

Curbishley, who has topped fans' polls since McCarthy's exit and pulled in a hefty 38 per cent of more than 6,700 fans in an online vote for the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star, does have an admirer in Morgan and is high on Wolves' checklist.

But the club are less enthusiastic about

Bruce and Warnock following their sackings from Sunderland and QPR respectively this season. Wolves are focused primarily on choosing a man to lead the team out of the current relegation peril.

Popular former captain Paul Ince, whose initial managerial path has been blighted ever since his Premier League chance at Blackburn, is among them having indicated that he would relish the 13-game challenge to reach safety.

"Paul would love the opportunity to show what he can do," said a source close to the man who was McCarthy's main rival for the job in 2006. "A big part of his football heart

is still at Wolves," Morgan said after the decision to end McCarthy's contract. The board felt it had "little or no choice". The club took the "difficult decision" after a poor run of results left them facing relegation.

Pressure on the boss, who is expected to leave with a £1m compensation payout, reached a critical point with the humiliating Molineux loss to the Baggies.

But Wolves' previous alarming sequence of results after early season optimism – just 14 points from a possible 66 – was the main concern for club owner Morgan and Moxey.

Morgan said: "I'm afraid the board thought we had little or no choice."

Co-driver gets into gear for new term

HALESOWEN rally co-driver John Connor is revving up for the new season.

Connor and Norfolk driver Richard Archer get their season under way on February 24 with the Bournemouth-based Rallye Sussex.

The event starts the NGK British Rally Championship Challenge (BRCC).

Archer and Connor linked up last year and impressed on their first event together, only to cut their season short with a high-speed crash while leading the Ulster Challenge Rally in Northern Ireland on the final stage.

The Wizard Motorsport/Pirelli Tyres and Hayburn Rock Associates supported ex-works Super 1600 Opel Corsa has been fully rebuilt over the winter and the crew cannot wait to start the season in Dorset.

Tough

Connor is a former champion of the BRCC, which follows the International British Rally Championship across six events in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

"Richard is one of the faster drivers I have sat with, so I am sure I am going to be kept on my toes this year," said Connor.

"We both have good knowledge of all the events but we can't underestimate some tough competition from other crews in this year's championship."

Archer, of Downham Market, is equally keen.

"I have won two of these rallies outright, including the Scottish round three times," he said.

"I hope that this year we can keep it all together and win the £7,000 prize fund towards next year's International British Rally Championship."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettleby, Telford, Thursday, February 16, 2012.

SANDWELL SPORT GIVEN A BIG LIFT

SANDWELL is to host two of the most prestigious national competitions in weightlifting, as part of the run-up to the London Olympics.

The All England Seniors national championship will be staged on Saturday at Oldbury College of Sport.

And on Saturday, March 5 it's the turn of the British Schools Championship, which is also at the college.

The All England Seniors is traditionally held at the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall, Shropshire – but the venue is currently being refurbished.

Councillor Linda Horton, cabinet member for culture and leisure, said it was a tremendous honour to be chosen to take over.

She said: "This is the top level of the sport.

"We will have athletes who are going to compete at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

"It is a real achievement to be trusted with staging this very prestigious event and I know it will be an inspiration to young Sandwell athletes."

The schools event is expected to attract up to 100 top athletes from all over the country.

Delight
Councillor Horton said the honour was largely due to the excellent reputation of local coach and former international Sam Hayer and his connections in the sport.

Hayer said: "I'm absolutely delighted. "This is a real honour for Sandwell and what an opportunity for our youngsters starting out – to watch the best in the world close up.

"Our focus will be on future stars of the Olympics – building on the legacy of the Games."

He said: "I started playing hockey at school so it's fantastic to be able to return to the playground, to meet the kids and speak to them about their sporting ambitions."

Wolves old boy helps Albion romp home



Wolves old boy Keith Andrews smacks in Albion's fourth goal during their stunning 5-1 triumph against their traditional rivals at Molineux on Sunday. It was the Baggies' biggest win at the venue in 50 years.

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the chronicle

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